



# VICTIM WAS DRIVEN AT, SAY POLICE

Report by Clare Butler

**A MAN killed in a hit and run in Halesowen had been 'driven at' on more than one occasion the night he died, police told an inquest.**

Benjamin Morse was hit by a dark coloured hatchback car in Cherry Street, Halesowen. The 36-year-old had been dropped off in a taxi with a group of friends after a night out, when a 'verbal altercation' took place between them and a driver of another car, Black Country Coroners Court heard.

"They were then 'driven at' before Mr Morse, from Yewtree Road, also in Halesowen, was knocked over and the car drove off, the inquest was told on Tuesday.



Benjamin Morse

## Men posing as police flag down vehicle

TWO men in a car posing as police officers have been travelling across the West Midlands – and managed to flag at least one vehicle down.

The force has issued a statement to alert members of the public to the National Crime Agency car with blue lights which has been travelling across the region.

The woman driver was asked to get into the 1 Series silver BMW but she refused and immediately reported the matter to police. Officers said on Monday that the vehicle was stolen in Solihull on Saturday between 5pm and 11pm.

It has already been spotted with two separate cloned number plates, according to police.

Detective Chief Inspector Craig Underwood said: "We are asking anyone who sees this vehicle to call us straight away. A police officer will always show their warrant card as proof of their identity, if this is not shown or you have any concerns then call us on 101."

A comment on Facebook stated: "Two sets of different cloned plates have already been used on the car which is why we haven't released the number plate details."

## Museum of glass needs extra cash

A FUNDRAISING push has started to ensure the opening of a new Black Country glass museum remains on track.

Trustees behind the White House Cone Museum of Glass in Wordsley need to raise £20,000 in eight weeks.

The museum has been built with £2.1 million from the European Development Fund and a £900,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The latest cash injection is needed for an internal fit-out or the project will fall behind schedule.

Trustee Graham Fisher said: "We need this to be able to move forward and we've now only got eight weeks to do it. The funding we had for the building work has been used and it looks fabulous. The second phase now is for the fit-out to turn it into a museum to host the collections."

The centre, supported by the British Glass Foundation, replaces Broadfield House glass museum in Kingswinford. Mr Fisher added: "Not getting the money raised in time would be a serious blow but we are confident we'll get there."

To help visit crowd funder.co.uk/the-white-house-cone-museum-of-glass/

## Man charged over body in wardrobe



The family of 17-year-old Megan Louise Bills have paid tribute to the teenager and want to know how she met her death

## Family devastated

A MAN has been charged in connection with the death of a teenager whose body was found in a double wardrobe at a flat in Brierley Hill.

Unemployed Ashley Foster, aged 24, was charged with preventing the lawful and decent burial of Megan Bills between April 16, 2017, and May 4, 2017.

At Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday he confirmed his name, age and that he has no fixed abode.

Mrs Maxine Jarrouse-Jones, prosecuting, told the court that police had been called to an address in Highgate Road where the remains were discovered, after neighbours reported a smell.

She told the court: "Police attended the flat and found a double

wardrobe wrapped in cling film. The wardrobe was opened and a young woman's body was inside."

Foster was not asked to enter a plea and was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 5.

Officers cordoned off the flat in Highgate Road last Thursday.

The family of 17-year-old Miss Bills issued a tribute. They said: "We are devastated by the loss of our daughter whose life has so unnecessarily been cut short. Whilst nothing can fill the huge gap in our family life that Megan's passing has left we trust that in time we will have answers that will help us understand why this dreadful event has occurred."

## TRANSPORT

### Bus operator steps in to rescue service

BUS operator Central Buses has stepped in to takeover the running of a Stourbridge service that was due to be axed.

The Diamond bus 142 route between Stourbridge and Halesowen will be run by Central Buses from May 30.

It will continue to run hourly in the day-time, calling at Stourbridge Junction, Rail Station, Wollescote, Wynnall, Huntingtree Road, Highfield Lane and Andrew Road.

There will be a few minor changes to the route with buses going along Highfield Lane and Andrew Road instead of Dunstall Road, Rosemary Road and Hagley Road.

## ACCIDENT

### Driver flees as car impaled on fence

A MOTORIST is lucky to be alive after the car he was driving careered at high speed into metal barriers on the side of the road and overturned.

The car veered onto the pavement in Grange Road, Halesowen, smashed into the steel fence becoming impaled – before the driver ran off. The alert was raised by a passer-by but when 999 crews arrived the driver had fled. The collision happened at the junction with Queensway on Sunday evening.

● Picture – see page 4

## VIOLENCE

### Teenagers arrested over machete attack

TWO 16-year-old boys have been arrested in connection with a machete attack outside a pub near Halesowen.

Officers were called to The Crown, in Carters Lane, just after 1.15am on March 25 after reports of disorder outside the pub.

A 22-year-old man was attacked with a machete, causing serious injuries, and was taken to hospital for treatment. Police say he continues to make a steady recovery.

Officers are continuing to appeal for information. Witnesses are asked to call 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## INSIDE

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# Shockers but cash pledge makes the road ahead look much better



Jim McGregor's picture shows Fernwood Drive, Rugeley

THE Chronicle campaign to highlight the worst potholes in the region has painted a shocking picture of the state of our roads but there is good news ahead.

Up to £5 million could be spent on fixing thousands of potholes in Staffordshire this year, Tory bosses have declared. Re-elected Tory county council group leader Philip Atkins revealed that £3m had already been committed to repairing the roads in 2017 while the administration would now try to secure a further £2m.

Mark Deaville, the previous highways chief who likewise retained his seat comfortably, defended the council's record on responding to 'emergency' pothole reports. He said it would be a priority to address the 13,000-strong backlog of road defects. Meanwhile several sites flagged



up in our campaign have either seen repairs carried out or pencilled in for work. The roads around junction 11 of the M6 between Cannock and Wolverhampton sparked several complaints from readers. Work has now been carried out to fill in some of the craters.

Both Five Ways Island and Hill Top in Hednesford were highlighted as trouble spots and funds have been allocated to look at both sites. Meanwhile Richard Sears, of Hednesford, highlighted poor pothole repairs at the entrance to the Chase Golf Club and Spa near Cannock. But he was delighted to tell us this week that the

issue has been addressed and several other potholes on the Pottal Pool Road from the A34 roundabout to the crossroads at Mansty Lane. And there was praise from Carol Longmore of Wollaston said: "Three times I have reported potholes and on each occasion they have been fixed speedily. The last ones I reported at 3-30 in the afternoon, by 9-30 the next day it was fixed."

But there are still problems. Jim McGregor sent a picture of Fernwood Drive in Rugeley. He said: "I was emailed back last week by the council and was told that 'no action was to be taken. Absolutely shocking.'"

Thanks to the help from readers we have found out about the worst-hit roads and will soon be publishing the 'Top of the Pots' which we will take to councils in the hope that they will prioritise these areas.

# Jail term cut for man who groomed and abused girl

A MAN from Stourbridge who groomed and abused a 14-year-old schoolgirl has had his sentence cut on appeal.

Stuart George Edmonds, aged 34, met the girl in a park and sent her a string of text messages before having sex with her.

Edmonds, of no fixed address, admitted three counts of sexual activity with a child when he appeared before Wolverhampton Crown Court in September last year.

He was handed an extended sentence for public protection of 11 and a half years, which was made up of a seven and a half year jail term, plus four years extra on licence.

But his jail term has now been cut to five years and his extended licence to three by judges sitting at the Court of Appeal in London.

Edmonds has been arrested after police received an anonymous tip about him.

Although his victim had agreed to have sex with him, Edmonds knew that she was below the legal age for giving consent.

The court heard that he was on licence from another prison sentence for criminal damage when he committed the offences in 2014. He also had previous convictions for drink-driving, possession of an imitation firearm, and had been branded a danger to the public.

Mrs Justice Andrews, sitting with Lord Justice Treacy and Judge Eleri Rees QC, ruled that the original sentence was 'too long'.

# £280k plan to tackle speeding

ACTION is to be taken to curb speeding on some of Dudley's major routes, with £280,000 being lined up for improvements.

Dudley Council has revealed it is set to give the go-ahead to traffic calming on a number of roads including Birmingham New Road on the Tipton and Dudley border, King Street in Dudley and Northway in Sedgley.

One of the busiest roads in the Black Country, Birmingham New Road, could have various speed management measures installed 'to prevent dangerous movements on the dual carriageway' and its junction with Ivyhouse Lane.

Traffic management will be put in place on accident black spot Gospel End Street, along with possible junction realignment to improve safety.

# Chairman's walk on trail raises £500

A DUDLEY businessman raised £500 taking part in a nine-mile walk for Macmillan Cancer Care. Mohammed Sagir, Chairman of the Voice of Dudley Business, took part in the Dudley Trail. He completed in three hours and 10 minutes, and thanked his sponsors.

# Much-loved zoo has wild time on 80th birthday

VISITORS flocked to Dudley Zoo to celebrate 80 years since the popular Castle Hill attraction first opened its doors.

The day of celebrations on Saturday started off with a fundraising walk, which saw 200 people taking part to try to raise cash for the zoo's orangutan enclosure appeal.

Then at 2pm there was a party in Dudley Castle's courtyard with retro singers The Glamophones entertaining visitors.

There was also a display of zoo memorabilia on show throughout the day.

Zoo director Derek Grove said he hopes the attraction - officially called Dudley Zoological Gardens - can continue to inspire people for at least another eight decades.

He said: "We had a fabulous day celebrating 80 years of Dudley Zoo with the hundreds of visitors who supported our fourth charity walk.

"The zoo is a very different place today to the zoo eight decades ago as we continue to expand and improve the facilities for more than 200 animal species and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who visit year-on-year, helping us raise funds and awareness for vital in-situ and ex-situ conservation projects around the world.

## Future

"We'd like to thank our visitors who continue to support our mission to create a better future for wildlife.

"We're proud to have such loyal supporters, many who have grown up with Dudley Zoo, and we expect to have raised thousands of pounds from the fundraiser with every penny going towards helping us transform the orangutan enclosure.

"We're excited for the future, so let's see what the next 80 years holds."

Mr Grove said the milestone was as much about looking back as well as looking forward, adding: "When Dudley Zoo first opened on May 6, 1937, it was declared the most modern zoo in Europe



Hundreds joined the fundraising walk for the orangutan enclosure at the Castle Hill attraction

and people got to see animals they'd only ever read about in books.

"For 80 years we've welcomed millions of visitors who have enjoyed seeing and learning more about our incredible species.

"Dudley Zoo is proud to be part of the region's

rich history. There have been lots of changes and improvements to the zoo as we continue to expand and improve the facilities. We'd like to thank everyone who has supported our mission to create a better future for wildlife and hope we can continue inspiring future generations for the next 80 years."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Town centre plans for 24 apartments

BUILDINGS in Halesowen could be converted into 24 apartments and a cafe or bistro, under new proposals.

Three vacant Grade II Listed buildings on Great Cornbow that were previously offices could be turned into flats, along with another vacant building, formerly a shop, in an application to Dudley Council planners. Two vacant buildings on Hagley Road could also become apartments.

Developers have also submitted plans to demolish existing outbuildings, erect a new orangery and conduct improvements.

### A night out with TV's grumpy Jenny

GRUMPY Old Women star Jenny Eclair brings her new comedy show to Dudley Town Hall next Thursday (May 18).

Entitled How To Be A Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane), the comedienne – who has appeared on Splash, I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!, QI and Grumpy Old Women – will be putting middle age under the microscope. Jenny was the first woman to win comedy's Perrier Award.

See [www.boroughhalls.co.uk](http://www.boroughhalls.co.uk) or call (01384) 812812.

### Zoo open longer for two evenings

DUDLEY Zoo has announced two evening openings, this month and next.

The Castle Hill attraction will open until 8pm on May 13 and June 17, with last entry being 6.30pm.

Zoo manager Matt Lewis, said: "Our late night opening also provides the chance for visitors to see some of our species who become more active during late afternoon, including our giant anteater, porcupines, tapirs and chimpanzees."

### From Wales to Black Country for hospice

FUNDRAISERS will walk 125 miles in two days from the Welsh coast to Stourbridge to raise money for the Mary Stevens Hospice.

The team will set off from Borth on May 19 and head for the Maverick pub in Amblecote.

The fundraisers aim to reach the pub by May 21.

The group are made up of Stourbridge residents and firefighters, who raised more than £8,000 for the hospice in 2016.

### Addams Family on way

NEW comedy-horror musical The Addams Family, from the writers of hit musical Jersey Boys, is at the Birmingham Hippodrome from June 6 for five days. The show features Samantha Womack as Morticia, Les Dennis as Uncle Fester and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday.

## New £1m care centre is set to open by Christmas

BOSSSES at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have revealed work to complete an urgent care centre will be completed this year.

The trust has received £1 million funding from the Government that will be used in a bid to ease pressure on the hard-pressed accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital.

Bosses will invest the cash in the new facility at the Dudley hospital, which will help staff to deal with patients coming into A&E more efficiently, relieving hospital resources and meaning waiting time targets are met.

Diane Wake, chief executive at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The work will be completed by Christmas."

The funding has come from the Department of Health, which has allocated £56m to hospitals around the country.

The extra cash has been welcomed by Dudley Council's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, Councillor Rachael Harris. She said: "The A&E department at Russells Hall has been very stretched, but staff did very well over winter compared to surrounding areas. Any investment is clearly welcome."

The trust has celebrated the new funding from the Government, which is well needed.

A spokesman for the trust said: "This really is very good news for all of our patients."

## Arts and crafts festival at church

QUINTON Methodist Church annual art and craft festival returns over the weekend of May 19 to 21, and promises to be the biggest yet, raising money for underprivileged children overseas.

The 17th festival will feature more 300 works by Midlands artists, many available to buy. There will also be displays of wood crafts, weaving, handmade jewellery, ceramics, greetings cards, needlework and textiles at 22 craft stalls. There will be a sale of a plants and 'Gardens in Shoes' display at the church in Ridgeway Avenue.

The festival will open on May 16 at 10.30am with the Lightwoods School Choir and Conservative Candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, James Morris. On May 19 evening will be a concert by singer Maggie O'Hara.

## Firecrews save unit from flames

PROMPT action by firefighters stopped a Brierley Hill factory unit from going up in flames. Crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill were called to the pallets fire in Thorns Road at around 1.15am on April 30.

# Fake news? No, trust us, what your local newspaper deals with is facts

TODAY, this newspaper joins forces with local and regional titles across the UK to launch a campaign to fight fake news.

As we approach the most significant national election in a generation, the need for independent local newspapers and their websites to report and explain the issues in an entirely neutral, honest and balanced way is essential.

This approach is in keeping with our ethos of always seeking to provide trusted news, campaigning on behalf of our communities, exposing wrongdoing through painstaking investigations, and ensuring that the voice of residents and the business community in the Black Country and Staffordshire is heard loud and clear.

This election will be different from any other. It is not simply that the outcome will define our future relationship with the EU and the manner in which it is negotiated; but it will be held in the context of the phenomenon of fake news.

In the past 12 months there has barely been a single global event that has not been infected by the suggestion that entirely fabricated information designed to deceive had been circulated indiscriminately via social media. Repetition through 'shares' and 'likes' adds an undeserved authority. Comment, unlabelled as such, masquerades as truth; satire is confused with reality.

The great global social media conglomerates have been slow to respond and grudging to intervene. Instead, it is established newspapers like ours and their websites which continue to be the political whipping boys, expected to submit to the most rigorous regulation and the threat of the most pernicious and damaging regime of court costs while they seek to pursue honest, investigative journalism in the public interest.

Unlike social media and the major digital platforms, this newspaper and its website are accountable for every single word we publish.

We have signed up to a comprehensive Editors' Code of Practice and we and all our staff have contractually bound themselves to its requirements.

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That all costs money. When you buy our paper or advertise with us you are supporting the very journalism and quality that keeps integrity at the heart of all we do.

We make a real difference and our campaigns – particularly the latest one on potholes – have been heralded by readers. Our stories are what they purport to be: the genuine article. Fact – not fake.



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# Co-founder of Midlands Air Ambulance retiring

**'SEEING the helicopters go over, I feel proud for all the lives we saved and the lives the charity will continue to save.'**

Those are the words of Ian Nicholls, from Halesowen, who helped set up the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity in 1991.

He has now retired after playing a huge role in growing the non-profit organisation. The 59-year-old was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 28 years ago but 'Mr Air Ambulance' powered on as the charity went from barely off the ground to an average of 2,000 missions a year with three air ambulances serving the West Midlands.

"I started working for the ambulance service in '83, taking people to and from hospital," said Mr Nicholls. "I became a qualified ambulance man, as it was known then, and then worked my way up to become a paramedic. Being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1989 was a devastating blow – I thought my life had come to an end. I had to stop being a paramedic."

Mr Nicholls, who is wheelchair-bound and has his right arm as his only working limb, did a lot of fundraising and in 1989, started carrying out research on the feasibility of bringing an air ambulance to the Midlands.

"I set up an infrastructure of volunteers, a hotel chain came forward to help out and funded us for a month and then a fuel company did for another month," said Mr Nicholls. "Various groups then started fundraising. It meant working a lot of late nights and weekends. Over the years I met so many great people and families."

Mr Nicholls added: "I never thought I was the retiring type, because of my passion for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. As my health declined though, I had to seriously think about looking after myself."

"I wanted to make a difference to the public, and that's something I think I managed to do."



At home, co-founder of the Midlands Air Ambulance Ian Nicholls, of Halesowen, who has now retired

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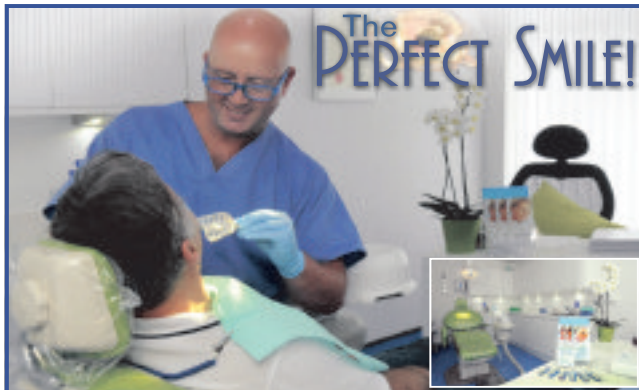
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# Water ride horror as girl, aged 11, dies after accident

**BOSSES** of Drayton Manor Theme Park have spoken of their shock and devastation after an 11-year-old girl died following a fall from a water ride.

The girl was airlifted to Birmingham Children's Hospital after she fell from the Splash Canyon ride on Tuesday afternoon. But that evening the child, named as Evha Jannath, who was from Leicester and on a school trip, was pronounced dead.

## Concern over Chelsea fans in Albion end

TICKETS for Albion's home game against Chelsea are being sold for more than six times their face value online as fans of the London club clamour to see their team win the Premier League.

Antonio Conte's team will secure the title at The Hawthorns if they beat the Baggies tomorrow night (Friday) as tickets worth £39 were being sold on eBay for £500 a pair and on Twitter for £200 each.

Albion will not be releasing any tickets in the home end on general sale over fears they will be snapped up by Chelsea fans. The club confirmed that they will only sell seats to members with a history of buying previous tickets to watch the Baggies. But Albion are aware they cannot stop supporters from cashing in on Chelsea's title tilt on the black market.

West Midlands Police are putting on additional officers for the game.

George Bryan, a company director and part of the family which own the Tamworth theme park, said: "It is with great sadness we have to report a young girl has passed away at Birmingham Children's Hospital following an accident on one of our rides.

"Our staff were alerted that an 11-year-old girl had entered the water. Trained park staff were immediately on scene tending to the patient and West Midlands Ambulance arrived and airlifted her to hospital.

"We are all truly shocked and devastated, and our thoughts are with the family and friends at this horrendously difficult time."

### Boats

The Splash Canyon is a ride, which opened in 1993, features up to 21 boats, each with up to six people in.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said the injured girl had been rescued from the water by park staff. The spokesman added: "Ambulance staff administered advanced life support before she was flown to Birmingham Children's Hospital with the doctor continuing treatment en route. Unfortunately, shortly after arrival at hospital the girl passed away."

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is investigating. The park was closed on Wednesday as a mark of respect.

## Driver flees after car impaled on fence



A police officer investigates the wreckage of the car that crashed into a steel fence on Grange Road, Halesowen

A MOTORIST is lucky to be alive after the car he was driving careered at high speed into metal barriers on the side of the road and overturned.

The car veered onto the pavement in Grange Road, Halesowen, smashed into a steel fence, becoming impaled before the driver ran off!

The alert was raised by a passer-by but when 999 crews arrived minutes later, the driver had already fled.

The collision happened outside Fountain House at the junction with Queensway at 7.37pm on Sunday.

The crash caused minor delays for other motorists as police and fire crews

worked to investigate the incident and cleared up the debris.

Haden Cross Fire Station green watch, who attended the scene, tweeted: "Occupants fled the scene, lucky to get out of a high speed crash."

Anyone with information on the incident should contact police on 101.

## Trim trail at college to boost health

A COLLEGE in the Black Country is launching a trail to highlight mental health awareness.

Halesowen College will open its new Mental Health Trim Trail today (Thursday).

The college received £9,700 from the Big Lottery Fund to enhance its Trim Trail which includes a sensory garden, planting, benches, conservation, interactive areas and specially commissioned mosaic art installations by local artist Alison Turner.

The area is available for students and staff to sit and take time out for their health and well-being.

To celebrate the launch college students will be linking arms around the 1km trail during Mental Health Awareness Week - May 8 to 14 - then the trail will be officially opened by Dudley Mind CEO Martin Mueller.

### Priorities

Jo Williams, interim principal at Halesowen College, said: "The final work is being completed on the trail and we are looking forward to the launch.

"Mental Health awareness is one of our key priorities.

"This specially designed space will be somewhere to take a break and will add to the help and support already given to students and staff who suffer with mental health issues."

## Craft, knit, cuppa and a natter at church

A CRAFTS and knitting event will take place at a church in Halesowen next week.

People are invited to bring their own crafts and knitting materials to Hurst Green Methodist Church in Narrow Lane on Wednesday for a cup of tea and a chat. The event will run from 7.30pm to 9pm and entry is £2.

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## £6m tax owed to council

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council is owed more than £6 million in unpaid tax from the last five years.

It comes as the authority increased council tax nearly four per cent across the borough last month in a bid to save £26 million over three years.

Bosses have also made drastic cuts including shutting the town's museum and art gallery, with the collection being moved to the archives centre, and cutting library opening hours.

Opposition leader Tory councillor Patrick Harley said: "The council is always telling us they have a very good collection rate but to have over £6m outstanding is shocking. They should be doing everything they can to get the money."

Iain Newman, chief officer for finance and legal said: "Like all councils, we do have some council tax owing from a small proportion of our residents. However we do have an excellent record for recovering council tax. Our collection rates are amongst the best in the country."

UKIP group leader Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "It's an astronomical amount of money. There's been savage cuts over the past 18 months or longer, and the cuts wouldn't have had to be so savage if we had the money owed."

"It's people's duty to pay council tax and if they fail to we have to go after them ruthlessly."

The amount owed in council tax is from the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2017.

The Labour-controlled authority initially put forward a 4.99 per cent increase, but Conservatives and UKIP united to reject the proposal, resulting in a 3.99 per cent rise.

# Porridge oats the secret to Albert's 107 years

**HE'S just turned 107 – making him the eighth oldest man in the country – and Kingswinford man Albert Taylor puts his health and longevity down to a good old bowl of steaming porridge every morning.**

Born during the Edwardian age – in 1910 – the former toolmaker has lived through two world wars and remembers a world without television.

But now Baggies fan Mr Taylor loves nothing better than watching the football or snooker on the box.

A former employee of Stuart's glassworks in Amblecote, Mr Taylor had two children with late wife Mary, Robert and Roger, and also has three grandsons, Andrew, Simon and Richard.

He turned 107 on Thursday, May 4. He still lives independently, spending one week at his home and the next with Robert in Shropshire.

### Neighbours

"He has wonderful neighbours as well, particularly Jean his next door neighbour," said Robert. "Then, he will spend the week with me, recharge his batteries."

"He is the eldest of seven children and the rest have passed away. He puts his longevity down to porridge."

Born in Catshill, near Bromsgrove, Mr Taylor has lived in Kingswinford for more than 50 years and spent most of his working life as a toolmaker, which was his reserved occupation during the war.

"He left school at 14, and his wages were seven shillings and six-pence. After Stuart's, he cycled from Amblecote to Smethwick every day to work at Scrivens's cakes. He retired at 72."

He part in an over 60s keep fit group until he was 90. Robert added: "He is a little frail, being 107, but he loves watching his sport. He follows the football and is an avid snooker fan."



A bowl of steaming porridge each morning has helped Albert Taylor reach his 107 birthday in Kingswinford

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £6m roadworks now under way

A £6.3m roadworks scheme in Pensnett is now under way.

The work on High Street will last for a year and intends to cut delays in the long run.

The work will include installing traffic lights at Tansey Green Road and new pedestrian crossing.

The plans have been in the pipeline for years and were previously expected to start around the middle of the year.

The project is set to cause major disruption on the road, which is used by 30,000 vehicles a day.

### More independent traders in town

DUDLEY has a higher ratio of independent retailers than most other towns and cities in the region.

More than two-thirds – 67 per cent – are independently run in Dudley. Stourbridge and West Bromwich are next best, both at 64 per cent. In Wolverhampton 61 per cent are independents, and in Walsall it's 62 per cent.

According to the Local Data Company, the number for 2016 has seen an overall slight increase on the year before, of 0.3 per cent.

### West End stars bring songs from the shows

WEST End stars are coming to Birmingham to present The Sound of Musicals at Birmingham Symphony Hall tonight (Thursday).

Singer-actresses Hannah Waddingham, from the London Palladium's The Wizard of Oz and TV's Game of Thrones, and Wicked star Louise Dearman will join Tim Howar and Oliver Tompsett and the London Concert Orchestra for songs from the shows. See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 280 3333.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# On yer bike – that is if you can afford it!

THE achingly right-on former Independent newspaper, which now exists in internet-only form, has put together a list of recommendations for people looking to get their first bike.

These include the Boardman CX Comp, which costs £650, and the Boardman Road Team Carbon, which will set you back an eye-watering £800. Which is strange, because I was under the impression that cyclists, and other environmental types for that matter, had a bit of a downer on carbon.

Anyway, if either of those are a bit pricey, there is also the Specialized Allez E5, which weighs in at a more modest £525. For the record, my first bike was a Raleigh Budgie, which was pretty good. And I'm sure it didn't cost £525.

□ □ □

DID you see the joy etched on the faces of the Birmingham City fans as their final-day winner saw them escape relegation by the skin of their teeth?

As an Aston Villa supporter, you will forgive me for not sharing in their elation. Nor for that matter do I look forward to them spending the next three months banging on about 'Arry and how they will now conquer all before them.

But imagine they had been relegated. Do you think a single one of those fans would want to see their team merge with Villa, Wolves and Albion to create one single super-team able to compete in the Champions League?

Because that is one of the proposals put forward by Sion Simon, who was last week defeated by a whisker in the election for the West Midlands metro mayor.

And while Mr Simon didn't win, his idea perfectly illustrates the flawed thinking behind the combined authority.

Because just as Blues supporters like following Blues, Villa supporters like following Villa, and Wolves and Albion fans like following their clubs, regardless of how they perform on the field, exactly the same tribal loyalties exist in the towns and cities that make up the West Midlands.

People from Wolverhampton are proud of their identity as Wulfrunians, people from Dudley are proud to be Dudleians, and people from Walsall like being, well whatever you call people from Walsall. None of us have a shared "West Midlands" identity, and we are certainly not Brummies.

Congratulations to new mayor Andy Street, and we should all wish him well. But it doesn't alter the fact that I don't want him, or anybody else, as West Midlands mayor.

Be part of history, said the posters imploring us to get take part.

And I have. Proud to be one of the 74 per cent who didn't vote.

## Money matters, mathematical mishaps and May-hem



New pound coins are reportedly falling apart, can't we go back to the note?



So it's this amount, says Dianne Abbott, whose maths skills were found lacking



Careful Donald! Hold on to that rail...the president is alleged to have a phobia of staircases

# Making a note of coins' pound-ing

THE new £1 coin is causing problems, with some being cracked, misshapen or with the middle part missing. If £1 notes still work perfectly well in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Jersey, why on earth can't we restore them in England?

LOANS to kids by their parents – the so-called Bank of Mum and Dad – has become the ninth biggest mortgage lender in Britain. It also has the distinction of being the only mortgage lender that never seriously expects to get the money back.

A READER who was probably paying far more attention to the script of Line of Duty (BBC1) than the writers ever intended, did his own detective work when it was revealed that the incriminating bag of evidence was buried "on the Chase" near the junction of the A51 and the A38. He analysed the directions and found that the location was on the main road next to his house in Lichfield. Result.

LINE of Duty suffered from the same problem as Broadchurch (ITV). It was beautifully filmed and excellently acted but the plot was ludicrously complicated. At the conclusion of a truly great crime drama, you should relish the unmasking of the villain, admire the tying-up of loose ends and generally cherish the moment, without feeling the need to consult Google to find out what actually happened.

OUR old tabby has shed his winter weight. He celebrated his new-found agility this week by killing and eating two grey squirrels which would otherwise be devouring the eggs and fledglings of our local songbirds. The domestic cat – sinner or saviour? Discuss.

OXFORD University's Equality and Diversity Unit sternly advised students in a newsletter

### THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



that avoiding eye contact could be regarded as a form of racism ("a racial microaggression") which can lead to "mental ill-health". The unit was forced to issue a humiliating retraction when readers pointed out that autistic people can find it hard to make eye contact. There are few funnier sights than the holier-than-thou dining on humble pie.

I ALWAYS have a special sympathy for those MPs appointed to that vast, all-embracing edifice, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. At the inaugural press conference the new minister, appointed for his brilliant grasp of 18th century portraiture, is made to look a wally by the first grinning reporter who asks him to explain the offside rule.

DIANE Abbott's ordeal by mathematics, live on radio this week, is one excellent reason for avoiding a career in politics. We mere mortals cannot comprehend all the stuff that politicians are supposed to memorise and regurgitate at a moment's notice. You promise to appoint thousands of new coppers. The radio jock instantly demands to know how much it will cost. So that's what? Ten thousand multiplied by about £40,000? Your brain freezes. You blurt out £350,000. The jock starts the eye-rolling and guffawing, and within a minute the entire nation has joined in laughing at Abbott. Maybe the shadow home secretary should have been better briefed. Maybe she thought her trademark arrogance and bluster would see her through. And, yes, the media probably made too much of a meal of the incident. Abbott came a hideous

cropper, living proof that in politics you never know what the next question will be.

AFTER my recent item on Donald Trump's alleged fear of staircases (bathophobia), a reader dug out a 1970 booklet owned by her late mother, a former psychiatric nurse. It listed no fewer than 94 medically recognised phobias. Today, 47 years later, Wikipedia lists 154 phobias and admits its list is incomplete.

WE'RE off to Scotland later this month. As anyone will tell you, Scotland can be glorious in May. The snag is that the glory may have started a wee bit early. The Highlands have been bathed in sunshine this week and, realistically, what are the odds of it staying fine for three more weeks? I fear we will arrive to that traditional Scottish greeting: "Och, you've just missed a lovely fortnight."

VINCE Cable, Simon Hughes and Edward Davey are three Lib-Dem knights accused of dropping the "Sir" while on the campaign trail, to make them appear more commonplace. If so, then Winnie, Symie and Teddy are by no means the first. I recall a delightful old chap who was a Tory Member of the European Parliament in the 1980s. He answered to the rather grand name of John de Courcy Ling, except during elections when he was plain John Ling.

SO far in this campaign, Theresa May has been spared a wobble crisis. Margaret Thatcher's Wobbly Thursday fell during the 1987 General Election campaign when, hit by raging toothache and a sudden slump in the opinion polls, the Iron Lady suddenly feared she might lose the election. Polls are volatile and scary things and it would be surprising if Mrs May didn't have a moment like that in the weeks to come. PS: Wobble or not, Thatcher was still returned with an enviable majority of 102 seats.

### TALKING POINT



## ePrix can showcase electric car future

THE future of the car is driver-less, according to billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk. He says all new cars will be self-driving in 10 years.

Ford reckon the biggest change since the horse made way for the internal combustion engine will come even sooner, they plan to be mass-producing cars with no steering wheel, brake or accelerator within five years.

Already autonomous vehicles are being tested regularly on the streets of San Francisco – I would like to see them tackle its famously serpentine Lombard Street – and French car maker Peugeot has just launched a self-driving pilot scheme in Singapore.

It's a scary concept and not only if you are among the millions of cabbies, driving instructors, bus drivers and truckers who are facing a redundant future.

These cars will rely on GPS, sensors, computer-based and therefore, theoretically, hackable.

Imagine being held to ransom as your robot vehicle with hijacked AI (artificial intelligence) hurtles towards your potential doom.

But advocates of true self-driving cars, that don't even give passengers the option of grabbing the controls, say computers make better drivers.

Figures show that 94 per cent of the 35,000 traffic fatalities in the US in 2015 were down to human error.

Perhaps the real issue isn't who or what drives the car, but its power source.

According to the European Environment Agency the UK had 11,940 premature deaths in 2013 from nitrogen dioxide, which is a toxic gas mostly caused by diesel vehicles and linked to lung problems.

Driver-less or not, that sobering figure suggests we should be planning a network of charging points for a big switch to electric (at the least, hybrid) vehicles. The inventive Mr Musk is already ahead of the game with his battery powered Tesla cars.

Since its demise in 1990, there have been regular calls to bring back the Birmingham Superprix to the city's streets... surely it would be better to host an ePrix.

Formula E has been the catalyst for much of the technology in electric cars since it started in Beijing in 2014.

The racing car batteries can deliver 200 kilowatt of power (equivalent to 270 brake horsepower) and can accelerate from 0 to 60mph in three seconds.

Formula E events have already been held in Hong Kong, Marrakesh, Buenos Aires and Mexico City. Further rounds are planned for Paris, Berlin, New York and Montreal. The next is in Monaco on May 13.

How about the UK's own Motor City joining the race into the future? But include drivers, please.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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## Motorway dog owner should face fine

RE 'This dog loves life in the fast lane'. So Keiran Samra said 'At the time it was horrible but now I'm laughing about it. I do feel a bit embarrassed because of the delays everyone faced and the trouble the police went through but I'm glad he's safe'.

Finding it now funny and being a bit embarrassed is not good enough - what about all the drivers who missed appointments, went over on their tachograph driving hours, missed delivery slots and those that had to work over to compensate for the time spent on the motorway, etc?

Let's also not get into all the things the police could have been better deployed doing. I was delayed but was able to re-schedule.

As it is the second time this dog has escaped from the family garden in recent weeks, I would suggest they improve the security of said garden. I also think a fine is appropriate in these circumstances. He is lucky people don't sue him for any losses incurred whilst sat on the motorway.

A BOTT  
Halesowen

## Hospital's staff are hit in the pocket by charges

DISGUSTING is the only word.

I read with dismay the article, that the Russells Hall Hospital had made an extra £120,000 in car park fees from their staff - namely doctors, nurses and other staff - bearing in mind that in general hospital staff have only had a one per cent pay rise.

I felt absolutely disgusted that a hospital board could increase car park fees for these workers.

It borders on greed. Everyone, including the public, who have to park on the hospital car park realise that they are being ripped off.

It is about time that this Government sorted this problem out.

When the Government got in during 2010, Cameron was going to deal with it. Hollow promises.

BOB WHITEHOUSE  
Kingswinford

## Supermarket trolley curse

THE curse of Asda trolleys.

A virtually permanent feature of where I live is stolen Asda trolleys.

I and other public-spirited citizens report these trolleys to Asda, but the response is disgracefully poor and it takes many days for their removal.

Recently, we had to endure six trolleys which were only removed following a complaint to Dudley Council.

D JONES  
Brierley Hill

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at [www.ipso.co.uk](http://www.ipso.co.uk). If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

## Removing recycling bins set to backfire

FURTHER to Dudley MBC's decision to close the twelve recycling points around the borough, saying that they only recovered 365 tons in the first six months of 2016/17, which they say will save them £45,000 per year. I worked that out at just over five tons per bin per month.

Seeing that on the council's website states that fly tipping is costing us tax payers £6 million per year, this saving is a drop in the ocean. If these bins are removed, the result will prob-

ably add more than £45,000 to the overall bill, which means that there is no saving in the long term.

I agree with Councillor Hartley that they are probably full if people are making the effort to visit the bins and leaving refuse at the side. Would it not be a good idea to paint the phone number on the bins to ring when bins are full or getting near to full? This is probably too easy a solution for Dudley Council.

PHIL CHERRINGTON  
Dudley

## Zoo day out recalled 80 years on

IN 1937 my grandfather Melvyn Hunt was a five-year-old visiting Dudley Zoo for the first time with his parents. He managed to become separated from his mother and father. Assuming they'd simply gone home without him, grandpa walked himself all the way from Castle Hill to Wallbrook where his family lived. He's never forgotten that day - the sound of the sea lions sticks in his mind.

On the zoo's 80th anniversary, he tells the story with much amusement that as a little boy he worked out the two-mile journey between the zoo and his home by remembering the bus route. His parents, of course, were worried but relieved when they found him in the care of his grandmother. My grandpa is happy to think that Dudley Zoo is still running today, and looks back with fondness at the memories he made there all those years ago. He lives in Australia now with his wife, two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

JESSICA KIRKNESS

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



# Residents hit out at OK on travellers' site

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 11, 2017

A DECISION to create a holding site for travellers next to a park in the Black Country has been criticised by residents.

Councillors gave the go-ahead to plans for the 'temporary transit site' near Black Patch Park in Smethwick at a meeting recently.

However, opponents of the plan claim the decision ignores residents' views.

Derelict land at the corner of Boulton Road and Foundry Lane will house up to 34 caravans at one time and have toilet and washing facilities. The park is believed to have been the birthplace of silent movies legend Charlie Chaplin.

Resident Andrew Simons said: "This decision reinforces the view that Sandwell councillors think...they can therefore ignore residents and users of Black Patch Park."

He also said the site would have been better elsewhere in Sandwell and claimed residents living nearby are opposed to the plans as a result of 'road safety and the heavy traffic on a severe bend and the location of an electricity substation just metres away from the proposed site'.

## Siphoning

Mr Simons added: "Local businesses are concerned about the impact that the proposal will have on their ventures and have experienced issues in the past from traveller incursions on Black Patch Park – for example the siphoning of petrol from vehicles at a local haulage company."

"One comment from a local business was – 'We've had enough of negative things happening – we want to see positive plans for the area – and this isn't going to help.'"

At last week's meeting, planning officer Alan Reynolds said: "This site will enable us and the police to resolve the problems we have in Sandwell and to reduce the numbers of unauthorised encampments in the future for the benefit of 300,000 people across the borough."

Those using the transit site will be charged £80 per caravan per week to pitch up for a short stay, plus a £250 deposit for each group.



Julie Walters as painted by Carl Randall with the Royal National Theatre behind



Prima ballerina Leanne Benjamin, as portrayed by June Mendoza



Ex-South Bank Show presenter, Lord Bragg by David Vigor



Keith Breeden's portrait of Charles Kennedy



Designer Wayne Hemingway, by Steve Caldwell



Jo Brand, also by Carl Randall, part of his London Portraits collection

# Actress Julie's brush with art

**'DOWN-TO-EARTH', 'without pretence' and 'professional' – an artist has portrayed Black Country-born star Julie Walters in a picture on display in London.**

The portrait by Carl Randall shows Julie, who hails from Smethwick, in a street scene in front of The Royal National Theatre in London – a place she has performed many times in her long-established career.

And it is on display at the Mall

Galleries in central London until May 19.

Mr Randall said: "In the portrait, I essentially tried to show her as an ordinary woman in a street, which relates to the characters she often portrays, and also how I found her to be in life – down-to-earth and without pretence."

"It is a portrait of her in front of a place that has personal and professional significance for her."

Walters, aged 67, who was this year honoured with a lifetime achieve-

ment award by the Royal Television Society, was expelled from Holly Lodge Grammar School before training as a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

After an 18-month stint, however, before pursuing a career in film and television, first studying drama at Manchester Polytechnic and later working for the Everyman Theatre Company in Liverpool.

The six-time Bafta and Golden Globe winning-actress wrote an autobiography called 'That's Another

Story', which featured her end-raced childhood home. The book, which she sent signed to Smethwick Heritage Centre, told of how she first came to prominence, playing the title role of Educating Rita in 1983.

She is now more famous for playing Molly Weasley in the Harry Potter films, and for her role in Calendar Girls and starring as in the TV drama Mo, based on Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam.

But for all her fame, the portrait shows the actor closer to her roots,

at the start of her career next to The Royal National Theatre, where she performed in Fool For Love from 1984 to 1985, All My Sons in 2000 and The Last of the Haussmans in 2012.

The picture is one of more than 200 portraits by more than 100 artists. Other highlighted individuals include broadcaster Lord Bragg, comedian Jo Brand, designer Wayne Hemingway, ballerina Leanne Benjamin and former Lib-Dem leader, the late Charles Kennedy.

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# Three are jailed for roles in guns and bullets deal

A MIDDLE man between Albanian gangsters and Midland drug dealers who bought two handguns and ammunition is starting a 14 year jail sentence.

Khalad Uddin 'pulled the strings' when his courier - Sadaqat Ali - collected the arms cache from a former soldier who used to stand guard at Buckingham Palace. Ex-guardsman Jermal Simpson met Ali for the hand over in the car park behind a Spar store in Lawnswood Road, King'swinford on August 3 last year.

But police watched the transfer take place and were waiting when Ali returned to his home in Madeley Road, Dudley, four minutes after leaving the meeting.

The two 9mm guns and 12 live rounds of ammunition were in an Adidas shoe box in the passenger foot well of the VW Sharan.

Simpson's Seat was stopped by armed police in Moss Grove, King'swinford, minutes later. Almost £2,000 cash was hidden under one of its seats.

## Jacket

Mobile phones taken from the arrested men revealed Ali had been making and receiving calls to and from Uddin before collecting the weapons.

The 35-year-old admitted passing on cash from Midland drug dealers to the Albanian criminals but denied involvement in the gun deal.

A bullet proof jacket was found at his home in Scholars Mews, Oxford on October 19 when he was arrested.

The jury unanimously convicted him and a 26-year-old man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, of conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition.

Uddin admitted being part of a con-



**Father-of-four Sadaqat Ali, from Dudley, sent to prison for six years**

spiracy to supply cocaine with a gang whose 'tentacles' stretched from London to the West Country and the Midlands, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Judge Nicholas Webb told the defendant: "The gravity of gun crime cannot be exaggerated."

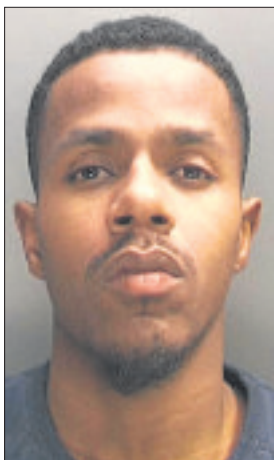
"Your role extended to getting firearms and ammunition."

"You wanted these for others, and possibly yourself."

"You and the 26-year-old man arranged for your agents to meet up."

The jury unanimously convicted him and the 26-year-old man of conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition.

Simpson, aged 24, from Parker



**Ex-guardsman Jermal Simpson - jailed for seven and a half years**

Street, Bloxwich, who struggled to find work after leaving the army, was acquitted of conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition but found guilty of selling or transferring the weapons and bullets and being in possession of money from criminal activity.

## Package

It was accepted that Simpson might have believed the package held a half kilo of cocaine rather than weapons. He was jailed for seven and a half years.

Father-of-four Ali, aged 35, had pleaded guilty to acquiring or purchasing the guns and ammunition and was sent to prison for six years.



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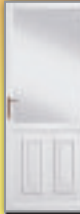
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Back to her best on the Thames, pleasure boat the Anne has been restored



Annie Gabb, rescued the boat which shares her name



PJ Darby at the stern of the Anne with, far right, Sammy Lewis, who died at Dunkirk



Troops crammed onto the little boats at Dunkirk



The Anne took part in celebrations in 2010 and 2012

# Annie sails to rescue of Dunkirk hero boat that shares her name

FOR years Annie Gabb and her family assumed that her grandfather's boat, after which she had been named, had been sunk during the epic operation to rescue thousands of Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk.

Requisitioned by the Royal Navy, the 30ft pleasure cruiser built in 1925 was one of the heroic flotilla of "little ships" whose glorious exploits in 1940 are the stuff of legend. But the Anne was never to return home.

So when Mrs Gabb discovered two years ago that not only had the Anne survived, but was rotting away after failing to sell on eBay, it was time for a rescue of her own.

She bought the boat. And now an extensive, and expensive, restoration has borne fruit.

"It's cost a huge amount," said Mrs Gabb, who lives near Bridgnorth. "But it's been absolutely worth every penny."

Report by Toby Neal

"Why did I do it? It was probably a moment of madness. I felt that if there was a boat that I was named after which had been so brave, I didn't want her to die in a car park in Shepperton."

## Grandfather

The Anne had belonged to her grandfather, P.J. Darby, who lived at Green Royde, Hagley, near Stourbridge, but who had a house on the Welsh coast at Tenby.

"She was a gentleman's coastal cruiser, a pleasure boat for my mother and grandfather and uncles and aunts. He was known as PJ, but his name was Percy."

When the Dunkirk crisis blew up, small boats were called into action to help evacuate Allied troops and the Anne was sailed from Tenby to Ramsgate by skipper Sammy Lewis, who later died in the operation on

another boat. From there she sailed across to Dunkirk with a navy crew and although Mrs Gabb does not know the precise details, she would have been involved in repeatedly picking up soldiers from the beaches and taking them to larger ships waiting off-shore.

She said: "She did have bullet holes in her and, being run up the beach, she had damage to her bottom."

Mrs Gabb knew of the story from her family. She said: "I was born in 1943 and in my childhood I always knew about grandpa's boat called the Anne. Because she never came back to Tenby, I presumed she had sunk. It turns out that she did come back, but never returned to Pembrokeshire."

Then, in June 2015, Mrs Gabb - whose name is Anne but is called Annie - was visiting Tenby with her children and grandchildren. At the lifeboat station, she got in conversation with a man about the Tenby boat that never returned. He encouraged her to find out what had happened to her.

She did. Through the internet, she discovered the Anne had taken part in the 2010 pilgrimage to Dunkirk as part of the 70th anniversary, and also in the Queen's golden jubilee celebrations on the Thames in 2012.

"After the jubilee she was towed up the river and left in Shepperton, abandoned. I found her there. She was in very bad order. One more winter uncovered and she would have been a pile of firewood. I bought her for very little and spent a year and a half having her restored."

The recent voyage of the restored Anne from Shepperton to a mooring at Windsor was Annie's first voyage on the boat she saved.

"My idea had been to give her to Tenby as a heritage thing. At my age, what do I want with a boat? But they couldn't give her a mooring. So I'm going to keep her at Windsor. They have a classic boat event at Henley, and I hope to take her to that and, in 2020, if I can still walk, I hope to take her back to Dunkirk for the 80th anniversary."

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# Street wise on business, says PM on visit to region

NEWLY-ELECTED West Midlands Mayor Andy Street is the man to deliver investment and jobs to the West Midlands, said the Prime Minister as she arrived in the region to celebrate his win.

Theresa May headed straight for the area just hours after former John Lewis boss Mr Street was elected as the first West Midlands Mayor.

The two were taken on a tour of UTC Aerospace Systems in Wolverhampton, which unveiled a multi-million pound package of investment at its factory in March.

And Mrs May said that while she was not complacent about a Tory win in the General Election on June 8, Mr Street's election was a good starting point.

She said: "I would like to congratulate Andy Street on winning the West Midlands mayoralty. People

here in the West Midlands now have a strong local champion in Andy who will get on with the job for delivering for the local area. A strong mayor here in the West Midlands, a Conservative Government can deliver for this region.

"I have seen in visits to companies I have done with Andy his determination to ensure there is investment, job and opportunities for the people here in the West Midlands. What Andy will be doing is ensuring the West Midlands is projected as an area for investment, jobs and opportunities. What is great about Andy is that he has business experience that he can bring to bear.

"He is passionate about the West Midlands. He will be working with Government to ensure that the West Midlands is able to develop."



West Midlands Mayor Andy Street gives Theresa May a kiss as she arrives in Wolverhampton

## Yeltz start work on major Grove revamp

A BLACK Country football club has announced it will be carrying out a revamp of its stadium over the summer.

Halesowen Football Club will be carrying out work to improve the playing pitch of The Grove, alongside the irrigation of the ground and fencing around the stadium.

The work on the pitch was starting last week, when contractors were removing the top layer of grass and soil before levelling the ground ready for a new surface.

The club has invested in a new sprinkler system, including a water tank and pump, to improve irrigation. Installation work was also due to begin last week.

The fencing around the perimeter of the stadium will be replaced as the section between Old Hawne Lane and Stourbridge Road which has fallen into disrepair.

A spokesman for the club said: "The proposed work represents a large financial investment from the club without affecting next season's playing budget. Although we will be bringing in contractors to carry out most of this work your help over the summer will be greatly appreciated and we will be posting regular updates on the website detailing the work the club will be undertaking."

# Staffing levels at hospital 'not safe'

**STAFFING** at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley has not been at a level considered safe at times during the last six months.

Safe staffing levels had not been fully achieved on occasions between October and last month due to recruitment struggles, sickness and intense A&E pressure, according to a report.

Dudley Group NHS Trust bosses have said it is 'looking at ways to recruit more substantive staff to support our existing workforce'.

The hospital is emerging from an extremely difficult winter, which saw numbers coming to A&E reaching record levels.

Hospital chiefs have struggled to recruit workers to bolster the workforce, while sickness levels also increased during the winter.

The trust's sickness rate was above four per cent for the final quarter of 2016/17, higher than the 3.5 per cent limit set by NHS chiefs.

### Challenges

The report said of safe staffing levels: "This has not been achieved due to ongoing recruitment challenges, continual winter pressures and capacity issues. Staff are moved to support patient safety and mitigate any risks."

A knock-on effect of the staffing situation at the hospital has been an increased reliance on agency workers.

Bosses said agency staffing remained a problem 'despite regular recruitment initiatives, introduction of trainee nursing associates and improved management of sickness'.

By Richard Guttridge

The hospital struggled to cope during the Christmas period and was forced to issue a plea for people only to attend if they had a serious condition.

Diane Wake, trust chief executive, said: "Patient safety is always our priority and we always try to meet national guidelines for safe staffing."

"However, on occasions where demand on our services has been unprecedented, we have had to open extra beds for emergency patients and move staff around to keep patients safe. We also employ bank and agency staff and deploy matrons to work clinically, providing direct patient care, when demand is high."

"Our priority is to ensure we provide safe care for all of our patients and we continually monitor staffing levels on all wards on a shift by shift basis to make sure we have the right staff in place to provide appropriate care for patients."

She added that Interim Chief Nurse Siobhan Jordan was looking at ways to recruit more staff.

## Charity in call to fill new volunteer roles

A CAMPAIGN has been launched by the Beacon Centre to encourage new volunteers to join its ranks.

The Sedgley-based charity already has more than 250 volunteers who offer support for those living with sight loss across the region.

Now a series of new roles have become available, including in Stourbridge the chance to volunteer with the charity's home visiting service or in its day centre. There are retail positions at the centre's shops in Wednesbury, Penkridge and Bloxwich.

There is also a chance to offer technology support to those who want to learn how to use a computer or to volunteer at the eye infirmary in Wolverhampton.

Beacon Centre volunteer co-ordinator Becky Sinar said: "Whether someone has two hours or 10 hours spare we have a role that could suit them." Call Becky on 01902 880 111 or email bsinar@beaconvision.org

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Dave Hill – Slade in 'ome town show'



Midlands rock legends Magnum

# Enjoy top note Robin 2 line-up

ONE of the Black Country's most popular venues has unveiled a packed guide to all of the shows booked from now until early next year.

A highlight will see the return of Spandau Ballet heartthrob Martin Kemp on July 4. Radio presenter Paul Franks will be hosting An Audience with Martin Kemp, which will include an hour long Q&A when fans get to quiz their favourite bassist. Tickets are £20 or £22.50 on the door.

There are also some exclusive backstage Meet and Greet tickets for fans to have photographs and autographs with the musician and actor for £20.

## Anniversary

Also talking about his many years in the music industry, on September 24, will be the once-spiky haired icon of the eighties Nik Kershaw. He is back on the road with the all-seated An Evening with Nik Kershaw show following the success of his Me, Myself and I tour in 2014. Tickets are £25 or £27 on the door.

2017 marks 25 years since the Robin 1 opened in Brierley Hill. The venue, which closed in 2003, will be remembered at the Robin 2 on July 14 with a performance by one of the bands that started it all – Soul Survivors. And, the good news for music lovers is admission is at 1992 prices, £5 a ticket or £6 on the door. Ex-staff can get in free by contacting the box office.

The Skids stop off at the Robin on their 40th anniversary tour. Big hits for The Skids included Into the Valley, Sweet Sur-



Joining the Robin line-up – Martin Kemp, Nik Kershaw and Heather Small



buria and The Saints are Coming. Also marking an anniversary is entertainer Richard Digance, marking 50 years of songs and stories that led to him getting a BAFTA nomination, with his Golden Anniversary 2017 show on September 6.

Eighties favourites T'Pau, fronted by Shropshire girl Carol Decker, is there on July 6 offering 'a rare full band show' and covering such chart toppers as China in Your Hand and Heart and Soul followed up shortly afterwards on July 16 by another 80s chart hit, Hue & Cry who had a huge hit with the track Labour of Love.

Bank Holiday Sunday, May 28, brings an all-day Slade Convention including a Q&A with John Steele from the Animals and executive producer for Slade in Flame. The evening will see tribute band Slyde performing all of their hits. An afternoon and evening ticket is £18 on the door.

And there is a treat for fans later in the year when Slade featuring Dave Hill

and Don Powell perform for a 'ome town show' on December 15 because of course it's Chreeest-muss! Canadian singer/songwriter Ron Sexsmith appears on May 22. Tickets are £29.50 on the door. Fellow Canadian singer Lee Aaron is on July 17.

Ex Rainbow and Schenker star Graham Bonnet brings his band to the venue on July 27 and two days later the Midlands rock legends Magnum hit the stage in what is likely to be a sell-out. And stalwart US rock band Living Colour perform on September 27. US AOR band Harline are on May 23 celebrating their 25th anniversary of debut album Double Eclipse.

Dr Feelgood is in a double header with Eddie and the Hot Rods on May 26. Dr Feelgood had such hits as Milk and Alcohol and Roxette while Eddie and the Hot Rods had the top 10 hit Do Anything You Wanna Do. From the Jan are back on June 2 with former bassist with The Jam Bruce Foxton joined by guitarist Russell Hastings and The Alarm drummer Steve Smiley



Eighties favourites Carol Decker of T'Pau

Barnard. The voice of M People, Heather Small, is at the Robin 2 on October 14 performing many of the band's hits such as Moving on Up and Search for The Hero. Tickets are £29.50 or £31.50 on the door.

The busy line-up for the Robin 2 runs into the Christmas season and beyond with highlights including soul legends Shalamar on November 8 and The Real Thing on November 17 as well as Les McKeown of Bay City Rollers on November 24.

China Crisis on November 26 and Go West on December 2 promise some more hits from the 80s while Boney M are lined up for December 16.

Chase and Dave are at the venue on December 23 while Bad Manners bring their ska sound on December 27. A host of tribute bands are lined up with one of the interesting being Blobbie Williams offering his own take on the Robbie Williams hits.

Visit [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) for details or ring 01902 401211 for tickets.

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A CONTROVERSIAL 'tip tax' in Staffordshire is to be reviewed, the newly-elected Conservative chief has confirmed.

There has been uproar since the Tory-controlled Staffordshire County Council – which takes in Kinver and Wombourne – introduced charges for DIY rubbish at household waste centres in November.

The fees were branded 'illegal' by the Labour group. More than 1,000 people also backed a petition calling to 'scrap the Staffordshire Tipping Tax'.

Now, despite the Conservative landslide victory in the local elections, leader Philip Atkins has stated the fees will be looked at again. He said: "We will be reviewing the tip charges. We don't believe we are doing anything wrong at the moment, but we can have a look at that."

The new fees mean people have to pay £3 to dump a bag of soil or rubble and a £4 charge has also been brought in for plaster-board and tyres.

# Mixed reaction as latest crime figures show ten per cent rise

**COMMUNITY** leaders have given a mixed reaction to figures which show reported crime has risen across the West Midlands.

The figures from the Office for National Statistics showed recorded offences had gone up 10 per cent in the West Midlands and 14 per cent in neighbouring Staffordshire.

The statistics, comparing 2015 with 2016, also show incidents of violence have risen in Staffordshire and West Midlands.

Councillor Patrick Harley, Conservative group leader at Dudley Council, said: "In Dudley, I think it is one of the safest places I know to live."

"We had some high profile incidents of knife crime in the past 12 months, and that is regrettable, but we try to work with police when there are spikes to keep levels low."

He added: "There are, of course, always improvements to be made."

Councillor Preet Gill, Sandwell cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "We need to be careful when taking in these figures. If more crimes are reported it may not just simply mean more are taking place. It

can be that awareness has improved or trust in the police has gone up."

Councillor Sean Coughlan, leader of Walsall Council, said people living in Walsall did live in fear of crime. He said: "If you go to any community group, go to a meeting, speak to members, they will tell you they do not see enough police about. They will tell you they do fear crime. I'm afraid it is getting worse."

But Christine Baron, secretary of the Stafford Borough Crime Prevention Panel, said: "I do get regular updates on the crime figures and I must say I'm surprised about this recent increase."



## Roadworks at busy junction

DRIVERS can expect disruption and possible delays at a busy junction in Tipton when major roadworks get under way this summer.

Work to replace gas pipes at the junction of Bilston Road and Wednesbury Oak Road, near the Tipton Sports Academy, is scheduled to take place from July, it has been announced.

The project is expected to last four around four weeks and will see old iron pipes replaced with newer, more durable plastic pipes.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place, which is expected to lead to disruption for motorists in the area.

However the work, which will be led by Cadent, is expected to take place mostly through the school holidays which will help limit the problems.

## Sky's the limit for Pc charity challenge



## Black Country officer Pc Keith Tedds plans a skydive

AN OLDBURY police officer will be taking the plunge and doing a skydive to fund a defibrillator in memory of a man who died of a heart attack while out cycling.

Pc Keith Tedds, aged 33, who has served for 11 years in the force, is doing the skydive for the British Heart Foundation.

Colin Vaines died after suffering a heart attack while out on his bike cycling up a steep hill in Drayton Road, Pc Tedds, just behind him, saw him fall off his bike and immediately rushed over to help. He attempted CPR on Mr Vaines but he died at the scene.

Pc Tedds said: "It was upsetting but I had to do my job. It does hit you hard. I deal with a lot as a police officer but that was definitely the toughest moment of my life."

Pc Tedds wants defibrillators to be available in rural locations. The skydive is taking place at Skydive Tilstock in Whitchurch, Shropshire, on August 18. Father-of-two Pc Tedds is hoping to raise at least £1,000. To donate text 'TXOP77 £5' to 70070.

## Partnerships key for new mayor, say CBI

BUSINESS leaders in the West Midlands have urged the region's new mayor to make boosting productivity the cornerstone of his first term of office.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has welcomed Conservative Andy Street's victory in the first-ever election for West Midlands Mayor (see page 2), and says by forging partnerships with local businesses he can help to unlock regional growth. It comes as the region's universities called on Mr Street to work with them to develop a wider skills strategy for the region.

Mr Street was elected Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority on Friday after edging home in a close contest with Labour's Siôn Simon.

Richard Butler, CBI West Midlands director, said: "The new mayor will have responsibility for growing the region's economy at a critical time for both the West Midlands and the UK as a whole."

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Ernest, in what was called hospital blues, the patch on his jacket marks that he had been awarded a medal



The military medal for bravery, centre, along with Star medal and Victory medal



Grandchildren, brothers John and Alan Russell, with sister Pat Parsonage

# 100 years on and story of a war hero is finally told



This document shows that Ernest Picken was fighting in France in 1915

**THE story of a Black Country war hero is finally being told, 100 years on from him receiving one of the UK's most prestigious medals.**

Ernest James Picken, born and bred in Bloxwich, was a coal miner turned soldier who fought across France and Belgium during the First World War.

He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field after saving off a German counter-attack while in the trenches near Loos in France, despite being shot. But until now his story has remained untold, mainly because his family had no idea about his heroic past until they began researching.

Born in 1891, Mr Picken lived on Elmore Row near Elmore Green for most of his early life. At the age of 19 the 1911 census listed him as a coal miner/underground horse cart driver.

He joined the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1914 and remained a soldier in the First World War until the first quarter of 1919. His campaign in the Great War saw him fight across both Belgium and France,

## MEMORY LANE

By Jack Avery

but it is the latter where he received his Military Medal for bravery.

On June 8, 1917 he 'showed great courage and initiative' as he fought off a German counter-attack, and was wounded in the process. He was recommended for immediate reward and was awarded the Military Medal not long afterwards.

The citation reads: "During a raid in the hostile trenches he showed great courage and initiative and set a splendid example to his men."

### Return

The citation also notes that Mr Picken was wounded and forced to return to England. It was in hospital that the only photograph the family have of him was taken.

As well as his Military Medal, Mr Picken was also awarded the 1914/15 Star, the Victory Medal 1914-1919 and the Silver War Badge. His family do not think the other three medals were awarded for anything specific, other than his participation in the

war. While back in the UK following his injuries in France, he attended a central infantry course in September 1917 and was rated very good or above average in every category. His bayonet fighting instruction was highly praised.

While in the army he was a keen boxer and notes found by his surviving family show he won a competition at some stage.

After the war Mr Picken, who had six grandchildren and lived to meet the first five, returned to Bloxwich and to his wife Rhoda Elizabeth, whom he had married shortly before the war, and his daughter Bessie, who was born in January 1913.

Not much is known of his life after the war, however he did move from Elmore Row to an area just off Field Road. To help make ends meet he boxed occasionally at Pat Collins fairground just around the corner.

He died in 1955. He had suffered from ill health throughout his life after the war after being gassed in the trenches.

His tale of bravery has only come to light after his granddaughter, 65-year-old Pat Parsonage from Bloxwich, began researching his life after being made the guardian of his medals following the death of her mother and his daughter Bessie, aged 97.



Ernest's wife Rhoda Elizabeth is seen with her daughter Bessie

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## Staff get In The Mood for wartime life



People dress in 1940's outfits for the Homefront event at Haden Hill House Museum, Cradley Heath

IT was the era of rationing, evacuations and air raids, and it was all remembered by staff at a Black Country museum as they turned back the clock to taste life on the Homefront in the Second World War.

Museums services manager for Haden Hill House, Jane Hanney, said it was believed that the house in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, was used by evacuees before they found homes in the local area as well as being used to help bombed out families and as a food store during the war.

She said: "Older visitors have told us about the celebration that took place in the park at the end of the war."

Visitor services officer Alison Hyatt said: "The site came alive with costumed historical interpreters and old vehicles, there was a uniform display and a chance for visitors to learn about rationing and taste some wartime food." It was also the first chance to see the new evacuee's bedroom display in the Old Hall.



John Shaw, from Halesowen and his 1940 Velocette motorcycle

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## Filthy prank on female firefighters

WEST Midlands Fire Service investigated claims female fire officers at two stations found their boots with urine inside.

The incidents allegedly took place at the Woodgate Valley station in Stonegate Lane, Birmingham and Wolverhampton station in Merridale Street.

Bosses at the fire service launched an investigation. But no-one has been disciplined or suspended.

Area Commander Sarah Warnes, strategic lead for people with West Midlands Fire Service, said: "These incidents are extremely disappointing, but isolated. They have been robustly investigated.

"We have taken extensive action as a result of our inquiries, based on the information we currently have."

Ms Warnes also condemned the behaviour of the culprits. She said: "Such behaviour is completely unacceptable and has no place in our organisation."



Jon George with some of the speedway images captured by himself and his camera club friends

## Jon has really put the focus on speedway

AT ONE time it was one of the most popular spectator sports in the country. To this day speedway draws a loyal fan base, particularly in the Black Country where Wolverhampton Wolves and Cradley Heathens ply their trade at Monmore.

The high-octane sport was recently the subject of a photography exhibition that was on display at Wolverhampton Central Library. It comprises dozens of snaps which have been captured by Jon George and his friends from Compton G Camera Club based at Tettenhall Wood Institute.

Most of the images were taken at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green

Stadium. Others were taken by Jon at the Haynes International Motor Museum, in Somerset. Its Forshaw Speedway Collection features a wealth of bikes and memorabilia.

At the museum Jon came across the story of Irish speedway rider Fay T aylour, known as Flying Fay. Jon, 68, of Wolverhampton, said: "In the 1920s there was a couple of notable women riders. One was Fay T aylour and she was an exceptionally good rider. In the 1930s they decided to ban women from speedway and one reason given was that if they were involved in an accident it could be awkward if the medics had to remove their clothing."

## Robber hit pregnant victim with a hammer

A ROBBER who attacked a terrified pregnant mother in the street with a claw hammer has been jailed for life and told he must serve at least 10 years.

Minutes earlier Andrew Bate had attempted to snatch an elderly woman's handbag but she bravely fought back and a passer-by came to her aid.

Judge Amjad Niwaz told 49-year-old Bate from Dudley that he posed a 'real risk' to the public.

By Marion Brennan

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the incident came just 18 days after Bate's release from prison for robbery.

He had quit a hostel in Birmingham, where he was required to stay, to see family in Dudley, said Mr Charles Crinion, prosecuting.

Bate had followed Nigen Parveen as she left the One Stop Shop on Buffery Road, on October 16 at around 11am.

The 37-year-old, who was almost five months pregnant, was wheeling her one-year-old child along in a pushchair.

As she turned into School Drive, Bate took the hammer from his rucksack and demanded money.

### Grabbed

She shouted: 'My baby! I'm pregnant' and said she would give him money. As she leaned down to get her bag, Bate hit Mrs Parveen on the head with the hammer and grabbed the baby-change bag. She suffered a fractured skull.

Several motorists stopped to help her and one of them, Sarah Skelding, whose three children were in her car,

challenged Bate and was herself threatened with the hammer.

A taxi driver, who also stopped, told police Bate had looked through the stolen bag and said: 'It's only old stuff, I need drugs.'

Two residents followed him as he tried to flee the scene before the police arrived and he was arrested.

Ten minutes earlier Bate had tried to rob 74-year-old Janet Darby in High Street. Bate had a catalogue of previous convictions including sexual offences, robbery and burglary.

Mr Nicholas Berry, defending, said Bate had a chronic drug addiction after falling into a spiral of self-destruction after being sexually abused at the age of 13 by a care worker, who was later jailed.

Bate, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm, robbery, attempted robbery, possessing an offensive weapon and failing to comply with sex offenders' requirements.

Judge Niwaz said: "You pose a real risk of repeating these serious offences and even of taking someone's life."

## The Beat's Saxa has died, aged 87

BIRMINGHAM musician Saxa, who was saxophonist for ska-pop band The Beat, has died aged 87.

Born Lionel Augustus Marti, Saxa was nearing 50 and an already established Jamaican session musician when he was recruited by the band in the late 1970s.

His melodic style was a crucial part of The Beat's sound, which yielded such hits as Mirror In The Bathroom, Tears Of A Clown, Too Nice To Talk To and Can't Get Used To Losing You.

When the Beat broke up in '83, Saxa played on records by both splinter groups, Fine Young Cannibals and General Public, and went on to play in The International Beat and other groups, and with ska and reggae stars such as Laurel Aitken, Prince Buster, and Desmond Dekker.

Saxa retired and lived in Birmingham until his death. The Beat released three studio albums, I Just Can't Stop It (1980), Wha ppen? (1981) and Special Beat Service (1982).

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## Commercial feature

**Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.**

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-the-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service

person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

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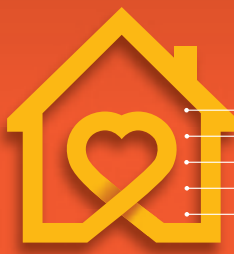
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The company's friendly and welcoming staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and advise when choosing the style of bathroom that suits you at a price that is within your budget.

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19 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 11, 2017



## Clubs' tribute to roof fall tragedy player

TRIBUTES have been paid to an 'always singing and dancing' cricketer who has died after falling from a roof.

Stuart Clarke, aged 33, from Walsall's Beechdale Estate, plunged about 10ft from the roof of Bloxwich Sports Club in Stafford Road. He was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after the fall on April 23 and despite a 10-day long battle he died last Wednesday.

Tributes have poured in for Mr Clarke, who was a member of Bloxwich Cricket Club, based in Stafford Road, and spent three years captaining the first eleven. As part of the tributes, Bloxwich Cricket Club and all the other clubs throughout the Staffordshire Club Cricket Championship, held a minute's applause before their games started over the weekend.

Mark Allcock, chairman of Bloxwich Cricket Club, said: "He never had a bad word to say against anybody."

"He was always singing and dancing and always had time for people. It is a big loss for the club, he was always smiling."

"Stuart has been a member of the cricket club since he was 14. He has grown through the ranks playing junior cricket and then senior cricket. He was club captain for three years and helped the first eleven gain promotion back to the first division. He was a close friend of mine. He coached at the cricket club but he was a bit of an all-round sportsman. He played snooker and bowls for the sports club."

Asked about the incident that led to Mr Clarke's death, which took place just after 2am Mr Allcock added: "It was an unfortunate accident what happened. As far as we are aware he was just coming down on some step ladders and dropped."

## Warning over Land Rovers

THIEVES are targeting Land Rover Defenders across the West Midlands region – stealing the vehicles or taking parts, according to an insurer.

NFU Mutual says claims for thefts of the vehicle or for parts have increased from £246,290 in 2015 to £266,920 in 2016.

It comes as the last of the Land Rover Defenders rolled off the production line in January last year.

In March last year a Land Rover Defender was stolen from Walsall, and was found in Telford four months later.

Clive Harris, agricultural vehicle specialist at NFU Mutual, said: "The Defender is no longer in production which has prompted a greater demand, making them a bigger target for thieves."

"I urge Land Rover Defender owners to be vigilant and be on their guard. Owners should ensure they have adequate security measures in place and consider fitting an after-market approved immobiliser and a tracking device if possible."

"When not in use Defenders should be parked in a garage or a secure area which is well lit if possible."

"Never leave keys in the ignition and keep keys out of sight at home and when out in public areas; it's essential that easy opportunities are taken away from thieves."

## 'Have a go' event about to launch

FREE and low-cost sailing and windsurfing is coming to Staffordshire for nine days from Saturday in the RYA Push the Boat Out 'have a go' festival.

Last year, more than 4,000 people across the Midlands discovered sailing for the first time through Push The Boat Out.

Five clubs and centres will be opening their gates and hosting Push The Boat Out open days and 'taster' events until Sunday, May 21. The clubs and centres hosting events around Staffordshire are Manor Park, Rudyard Lake, North Staffs, Greensforge and Tamworth sailing clubs.

To find your nearest event and for full details of what is going on and when at each participating sailing club and centre, visit [www.rya.org.uk/PTBO](http://www.rya.org.uk/PTBO)

To search for an event where disabled people can get on the water, tick the 'Sailability' activities box.

## Picture focus



Down the slide on the Pretty Muddy Run at Weston Park on Saturday



Shropshire runners Lucy French-Rodgers, Chloe French and Joy Todd



Gemma Newell, Tracey Timms, Becky Smallman and Zoe Newell



Donna Scaife, Emma Clarke and Hannah Grove from the University of Wolverhampton

# Muddy good fun as runners tackle park obstacle course



Emma Lovett and Jane Candlin from Telford



Lou Bromley completes the 5km run



A muddy hug for these two participants

**PRETTY muddy and still smiling – 2,000 women took part in the third Race for Life Pretty Muddy event at Weston Park, near Shifnal, raising about £50,000 for charity.**

The women, from teenagers to grandmothers, completed five kilometre and 10 kilometre obstacle courses which included cargo nets, slides and of course lots of mud.

Organiser, Emily Thompson, said those taking part came from as far afield as Wales as well as from Wolverhampton and the West Midlands.

She said those taking part had a great time, despite grey skies on Saturday.

Now working for Cancer Research, Emily started fundraising when her mother, Denise

## Report by Sue Austin

Smith, who died in 2005, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Her father, David, is a cancer survivor, having been diagnosed in 2009.

"It is a very emotional event. There are so many people who take part in memory of friends and family or because they are cancer survivors," she said.

"One of those I spoke to, Jo Griffiths, told me she was taking part after her treatment three years ago for breast cancer, which took the lives of her grandmother and her mother. Stories like that are typical."

It is holding its traditional, non muddy, Race for Life runs in Telford on May 21 and Shrewsbury's Quarry on June 11.



Over 2,000 women were covered in mud at the event



A wave as she reaches the finishing line



Covered in mud – but still smiling



## New horizon of possibilities with dental implant therapy

COULD you ever imagine that after losing natural teeth, things could ever be quite the same again?

We all know that tooth loss can obviously impact on our choices of food, but there are many less visible problems too. Simply, losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can stop us living life spontaneously and enjoying ordinary things like meals out and, in some cases, having a good old laugh.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss. It can be embarrassing, painful and erode self-esteem.

Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says: "We see almost on a weekly basis that failing teeth – both natural and dentures – can have a hugely corrosive effect on lifestyles."

### Premium dentures

Solutions without using dental implants have been around for a long time. Dentures and bridges still offer excellent options, but the use of implants has now opened a wide range of solutions that should, if cared for, last a very long time.

Implant therapy is often a lifestyle investment and both denture patients and those with natural teeth can benefit.

Adds Steven: "If the patient is suitable, and few are not, dental implants whether for single or multiple teeth replacement, to support



- Single or multiple teeth
- Bridges and crowns
- An end to loose dentures

bridges, or to support a complete arch of teeth, can offer long-term solutions with generally very predictable clinical outcomes." For those with prosthetic stabilisation issues – the clinic regularly hears stories of dental fixative being an irritating, permanent necessity – implant retained prescriptions also offer excellent results.

"Our implant retained dentures have a bite comparable to natural teeth, look stunning, appear as natural teeth and deliver the patient a dental therapy where we can guarantee an end to denture stabilisation issues.

"Just two lower implants used to stabilise a lower over-denture can deliver strident changes in functionality for patients," adds Steven.

All denture prescriptions are handcrafted on site in the clinic's laboratory using only premium quality materials and state-of-the-art production methods.

Speaking of North Street's implant surgeon and general dentist, Owain Rees, Steven adds: "He's innovative, accessible... and a genuinely nice guy to meet."

Web link: <http://northstreetdentalclinic.co.uk/our-services/implant-dentistry/>



## A whole arch of teeth in a day

THE All-on-4 treatment concept replaces your missing teeth with a permanently fixed, full dental bridge supported on only four implants.

It is one of the most efficient and minimally invasive options available and enables a full upper or lower arch of teeth to be replaced within a day.

Historically, implants, have been associated with time-consuming surgical procedures. But this is no longer the case with the All-on-4 implant as structures are loaded with prosthetic teeth on the same day they are placed. Quite literally, your smile can be restored in just a few hours.

It has been described as "the last frontier in implant dentistry" with the number of implants supporting a prosthetic drastically reduced, along with the rehabilitation time.

Traditionally up to eight implants could have been used to support a single arch in an often cost-prohibitive surgery procedure.

This alternative system provides the most cost-effective solution of permanently fixing replacement teeth. Your new replacement teeth will look and feel more like your own than dentures ever could and you can lead a normal life very soon after surgery.

### Unique

All-on-4 implants are similar to their normal implant counterparts, but it is how they are positioned which makes them unique. The two implants at the front of the mouth are positioned at the normal angle of 90 degrees, while the two at the back are fixed at 45-degrees.

Simply, it means more bone is utilised in the support of the implants, allowing for multiple teeth to be fixed on them right away.

Web link: <http://northstreetdentalclinic.co.uk/teeth-in-a-day-with-all-on-4/>

# Life-changing choices



Jacqueline Turgoose

• Staff are approachable and friendly



Vicky Ball

• A combined 60 years of clinical service



Norma Aston

• Established reputation for implants

CONFIDENCE, trust and an exceptionally good reputation for clinical work and care are helping reshape patients' lives at a Dudley dental practice.

With some 60 years' combined experience from its two key clinicians underpinning a large portfolio of "life-changing" decisions, North Street Dental and Implant Clinic continues to attract interest from all over the UK and beyond.

Recently, a patient from north Wales, who had researched dental implant work on the internet, made the trip to the North Street clinic for treatment.

### Powerful fusion

A leading provider of implant solutions in the Midlands, the practice provides everything from general oral maintenance to highly complex surgical procedures with clinical lead, Owain Rees BDS DGD (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL).

But it's the denture and implant work for which it is best known. Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) says: "People with oral problems gravitate towards us and I believe it's as much our accessibility as experience that attracts.

"My whole working career has been in denture provision and we have a reputation for being the Last Chance Saloon for people at their wits' end with failing teeth – whether dentures or native teeth.

"Working with Owain, who was in the vanguard of UK implant dentistry in the '80s, creates a powerful fusion of life-changing skills that are underpinned by our onsite laboratory and high-spec surgeries."

Early in his career Owain was exposed to implant

## Predictably Reassuring

Owain Rees (left) and Steven Burchell who have a combined 60 years of experience in resolving dental problems



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work while working as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

"I placed my first in the late '80s and since then I've continued with a special interest in this field," he says.

Former community midwife Vicki Ball, whose treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over-denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures, is gushing with praise about her new look. She was initially attracted to the practice after reading through the clinic's patient

experiences that are regularly published in the local newspapers. After reading about dental tourists who had disastrous experiences overseas, Vicki decided to book in for an initial consultation.

"From the very first time until the last visit I'd always been put at ease, always felt confident about all the people that are working here and always greeted with a smile and felt really welcome."

Her treatment from start to finish took 14 weeks, "but it was worth the wait," she says.

"When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I

thought they looked just like real teeth. My husband couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief."

Salsa dancing enthusiast Norma Aston was also attracted to the clinic by Steven's media exposure. "I kept coming back to the advert in the paper," she says.

"Before I came [to the surgery] I went online and looked at the case studies. I knew Owain's reputation through my stepdaughter, who had been seen

him for quite a few years," she recalls.

But it was the face-to-face meeting with Steven that sealed her choice.

"His general demeanour and attitude to it all gave me the confidence and assurance that they could solve my problems," she says.

Norma, a vivacious 60-something-year-old, had experienced "troublesome teeth for years," but a picture snapped at a farewell party revealed just how far forward her top teeth had migrated.

Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable over-denture and a traditional upper denture prescription. Since her treatment Norma has remained an ambassador of the practice and is clearly happy with her smile. "I keep telling other people about it," she adds.

### Kept press cutting

Jacqueline Turgoose, a youthful 70-something-year-old, was prescribed traditional, high quality upper dentures along with a removable lower over-denture, stabilised on two implants.

"I saw a piece in the paper five years ago about how Steven's work had sorted out some problems. I kept the press cutting."

The article focussed on stabilising dentures with implants. "It offered me hope that something could be done to help me and I kept the article all this time until I had the money to get my teeth fixed," she recalls.

Husband John adds: "It was a good decision and worth every penny."

Her experience with the clinic? "Every member of staff was lovely and so easy to talk to. They were all so very kind and the care was excellent," she adds.



## 22 Ladies take walloping in bowls game

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 11, 2017

Wollaston E TWG

THERE were 35 members in attendance at the April meeting with chairman Julie Willetts in charge.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as a true record. The chairman then welcomed new committee members and introduced the full committee to the membership.

Suggestion slips were given out requesting ideas for future activities, in which fellow members may be interested. Treasurer Margaret Gregory gave a favourable report on the group's financial position.

The Federation annual dinner will take place on Monday August 7 at the Copthorne Hotel and a booking board will be available for members wishing to attend. A visit to Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on August 24, at a cost of £17.50, is also in the offing.

The bowls section enjoyed a competitive morning of matches with the Sons of Rest bowlers which ended in a walloping for the ladies.

Brenda Adkin was wished a speedy recovery after her recent hip operation.

The speaker for the evening was Paul McGuire, a former BBC warm-up man, who gave a very interesting and amusing talk, relating to artists and incidents that occurred in his line of work. Members felt he should be asked to make a return visit.

Raffle prizes went to Joy Cook and Janet Hodder.

Monies owing for the annual dinner at Hagley Country Club should be paid at the next meeting.

## Cracking talk from Easter meeting guest



Chairman Ann Rogers, left, with two members and speaker David Berry Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

IN April, chairman Ann Rogers welcomed 36 members to a special Easter themed lunch. Members enjoyed an excellent meal of pate, roast lamb and apple pie at brightly coloured tables bedecked in yellow.

Jill Buchan and her sister June Weaver were kept very busy on the bring and buy stall with items coloured yellow or white.

To complete the popular Easter meeting speaker David Berry, with his talk on 'Humour in Retirement', had every member laughing. With tongue-in-cheek he explained what happens to us once we draw our pensions, interspersing such tales of woe with jokes and stories.

In fact his great sense of humour proved

to be the best tonic to cure all ills. Retirement is when our priorities change from earning money to enjoying life.

Meetings are held the second Friday each month at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley 12pm for 12.30pm. The speaker on May 12 will be Ned Williams talking about The King of Showmen and in June Patricia Boyd on Bantock House Museum, followed by a return visit of Michael Taylor, well-known local author, speaking about The Fact in Fiction on July 14.

## Committee to remain in situ

AT the West Midlands Federation of Townswomen AGM on April 19 in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall, chairman Margaret Tew gave a warm welcome to committee members, president Christine Yorke and past presidents, and to delegates and observers representing guilds within the federation.

### West Mids Federation

Secretary Hazel Butt presented minutes from the past year which were read, accepted as a true record and duly signed. The present committee have all offered to remain in office for a further 12 months.

The next event will be the

National AGM being held at Sheffield City Hall on June 21. Six members of the Federation will be attending.

The Federation luncheon is being held this year at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill on August 7 when the guest speaker will be Sue Hickman who will be giving a talk entitled 'Crossing the Andes on horseback'.

## Beauty spot is the gift that keeps on giving

IT was a gift that ensured future generations could continue to enjoy a much-loved beauty spot.

Without the the generosity of siblings Oliver, Clara, Rosalind and Stephen Lee, it is believed Kinver Edge would have been lost to developers.

In 1917, they secured its future as a nature haven by buying and donating 156 acres of land to the National Trust in memory of their late parents.

It was one of the first grants to the conservation charity and, amid the First World War, a ceremony took place to mark the donation.

The family went on to donate a further 57 acres in 1942 with the National Trust continuing to acquire more land and the Rock Houses, carved out of the sandstone at Holy Austin Rock.

### Ranger

The siblings continued to be supportive but it was Oliver, a solicitor, that played the biggest role, paying for a ranger on Kinver Edge and a lodge to be built on Comber Road.

Sue Wright is Oliver's granddaughter and for ten years has been chairman of the Kinver Edge Committee, which her grandfather was also instrumental in setting up in 1921.

She grew up visiting Kinver Edge having spent part of her childhood in the village and says it still holds 'an incredibly special' place in her heart.

"We used to come for picnics and because it was really sandy we would bring buckets and spades. It was almost like going to the seaside," said the 71-year-old, who lives in Harborne.

She added: "It's such a beautiful, peaceful and interesting place."

Speaking of the first donation, Mrs Wright said: "It was an extraordinary thing to do. They purchased the land from the Webb family, who were only



Sue Wright is Oliver Lee's granddaughter and chairman of Kinver Edge Committee



Oliver Lee in 1917 at the ceremony that helped to safeguard Kinver Edge

too happy to sell it because they supported the family's plans and, within a week or two, handed it over to the National Trust. It was a green lung for the toiling masses of the Black Country and Birmingham.

"My family may have donated the first land but it's the community together with the volunteers and the National Trust who turned it into the place we can enjoy today."

The committee is organising events to celebrate the 100th anniversary and an appeal has been launched to raise £175,000 for a new walkway of accessible footpaths.

For more information email kinveredge@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01562 712822. To donate to the Centenary Appeal go to [www.justgiving.com/kinveredge](http://www.justgiving.com/kinveredge)

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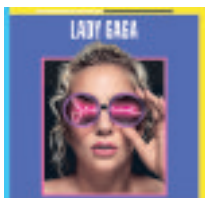
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# Professor Cox: I'll talk weird science

The world record for tickets sold for a science show was held by Professor Brian Cox. That was until another man came along and smashed it to smithereens.

His name was, you guessed it, Professor Brian Cox. The multiple-world-record holder sold 75,000 for a previous tour. But his latest Professor Brian Cox Live shows will seem him performed to around 150,000 people – twice as many as his previous run.

And Brian can't wait to get into some of the UK's biggest venues – including Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena tonight – to talk about science.

He will take audiences on a dazzling journey through space and time, delving into 'high science' and freewheeling on the edges of the known cosmos. Whether an avid science reader or a total novice, Professor Brian Cox Live will test the limits of our knowledge and make highly complex ideas accessible to all.

He plans to take science to a new dimension in a show hosted by Infinite Monkey Cage co-host Robin Ince.

Brian's excited about the prospect of hitting the road because he would be able to use massive screens to properly showcase the 'beautiful' high resolution imagery of various galaxies from the Hubble Space Telescope.

He says: "The exciting thing about these, from the (shows) before Christmas, we're in really big venues.

"We have a really big screen, a ridiculous screen – it's a state of the art LED display, it's something like 30m wide and 15m high.

## INCREDIBLE

"It's huge, and what you realise is the images we've now got from the Hubble and Cassini, which has been in the news a lot over the last few weeks, they're such incredible high-res images, when you put them on screens like that and fill arenas with them, they look spectacular.

"I don't think anyone ever gets a chance to do it, to give them the presentation they deserve because they are beautifully detailed, and that's the most exciting thing."

Brian has presented numerous science programmes for the BBC and has been described by Sir David Attenborough as his natural successor. He has spoken about astronomy and physics and hopes to give people the enthusiasm to learn.

He says: "They will know more in the sense that they might not have thought about the vastness of the universe, but one of the only things you can aim to do in a show is to trigger a desire to learn more, because you can't even begin to scratch the surface of what we know."

On his present tour, he hopes to answer people's questions about the meaning of life and the possibility of aliens with his shows.

"That's why I'm doing this tour, so I can answer them once and for all. I should add that I don't know the answer to either of those questions – I'll give my opinion."

Brian has been thrust into the spotlight and some have questioned



Let's get physic-al – Professor Brian Cox talks science



the way science has moved into the mainstream and been used as entertainment.

However, he believes it is healthy for people to learn more – providing they are basing their opinions on fact.

"One has to be careful when communicating uncertainty in science, especially in politicized areas such as climate science. The reason is that uncertainty is often misunderstood and occasionally misused by self-styled 'on-line magazine editors' or opinion formers 'who are always right' – you know the sort.

"But surely it isn't a bad thing to challenge a scientific theory or prediction? Isn't the reason for the success of science the fundamental axiom, if you like, that all theories or predictions MUST be falsifiable, and are NEVER to be assumed to be absolutely correct? And doesn't the very requirement of the falsifiability of any theory or prediction demand that someone should try to falsify them? Yes, to all of the above.

"BUT, there is statement that I believe to be correct, and can be made with certainty. It is this: The consensus scientific view is the best we can do at any given time, given the available data and our understanding of it.

"It is not legitimate and certainly of no scientific value (although there may be political value) to attack a prediction because you don't like the consequences, or you don't like the sort of people who are happy with the prediction, or you don't like the people who

*We have a really big screen, a ridiculous screen – like 30m wide and 15m high*

made the prediction, or you don't like the sort of policy responses that prediction might suggest or encourage, or even if you simply see yourself as a challenger of consensus views in the name of some ideal or other. It is only appropriate to criticise a prediction or theory based on specific criticisms of the data, methodology or the underlying theoretical framework. It is content-less to criticize a scientific prediction because you don't like it."

Brian was born in Oldham and now lives in London after writing, or co-writing, more than 950 scientific publications. He was an entertainer before becoming a TV scientist, playing the keyboards for D:Ream and Dare. He's won numerous awards and in 2002 he was elected an International Fellow of The Explorers Club and in 2006 he received the British Association's Lord Kelvin Award for this work.

He held a prestigious Royal Society University Research Fellowship from 2006 to 2013 and in 2010 won the Institute of Physics Kelvin Prize for his work in communicating the appeal and excitement of physics to the general public.

He was appointed OBE in the Queen's 2010 Birthday Honours for services to science and in 2011, he won Best Presenter and Best Science/Natural History programme by the Royal Television Society for Wonders of the Universe. A year later, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Open University.

● For more entertainment news see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.





John Partridge and Adrian Zmed in La Cage aux Folles

## Glamour is such a drag in La Cage Aux Folles

Theatre mogul Bill Kenwright is reviving glamorous drag musical La Cage Aux Folles and bringing it to Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, May 16-20, as part of a UK tour.

Theatre star John Partridge will play the iconic role of Albin, star drag act Zaza at the infamous La Cage aux Folles nightclub in St Tropez.

Partridge's extensive theatre credits include the West End productions of A Chorus Line, Cats, Starlight Express and Chicago. He is also well known for playing Christian Clarke in BBC's EastEnders.

American actor and singer Adrian Zmed will play Georges, partner of Albin and owner of the nightclub. Zmed co-starred with William Shatner in the 70s hit TV show TJ Hooker and played Johnny Nogerelli in the

movie Grease 2. This will be his first stage appearance in the UK although he is no stranger to Broadway.

Written by Harvey Feinstein and Jerry Herman, and based on the 1973 French play of the same name by Jean Poiret, La Cage Aux Folles follows the story of Georges and Albin as their way of life is threatened when Georges' son Jean-Michel announces his engagement to the daughter of a notorious right-wing politician. When a meeting of the parents forces the gay couple to cover up their lifestyle, will Albin be able to play the role of his life? This show-stopping score includes The Best of Times and the iconic I Am What I Am. La Cage Aux Folles is a multi-award winning musical.

For tickets [www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000. The show also visits Wolverhampton Grand next month.

## Count your lucky stars Dean's back



American singer-songwriter Dean Friedman returns to the UK for an extensive tour - including a gig at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Wednesday (May 17).

He is promoting Words & Music, his double CD collection featuring 30 original songs from his last six studio albums.

New Jersey-born Friedman first marked his entry into pop consciousness in 1977 with US top 20 chart success of his infectious hit single, Ariel, a quirky pop song about a free spirited, pot-smoking, vegetarian Jewish girl who lived, as the lyric goes "...way on the other side of the Hudson".

Friedman scored again with the release of second album, Well, Well, Said the Rocking Chair' and its hit single, Lucky Stars, which reached no3 in the UK chart. This duet with Denise Marsa was followed by radio favourite Lydia.

Friedman's next single, McDonald's Girl was banned by the BBC for mentioning the fast food restaurant. The irrepressible pop song has been covered by a number of bands including top Canadian band, Barenaked Ladies. The song has become a viral YouTube video hit, and a staple of high school a capella groups, around the world.

Friedman's consummate songwriting and performing, have earned him a loyal

international following, devoted to his sophisticated, funny and sometimes profound songs.

In more recent times he formed an alliance with British satirical rock band Half Man Half Biscuit, who on their 1987 album Back Again in the DHSS included a song entitled The Bastard Son of Dean Friedman. Biscuit lyricist Nigel Blackman and Friedman met at the 2003 Edinburgh Festival Fringe and seven years later the American singer joined the band on stage at the Robin.

Friedman, who lives in upstate New York with his wife and a very small dog, will be on stage at 8.30pm for the all-seated gig. See [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or call 01902 401211.

## Funny business to help charities

Top comedians are on the way to help charities. On May 18 the fourth Hilarity Charity Gala at Wolverhampton Grand will raise money for the city's Central Youth Theatre. Daniel Kitson returns to host with Romesh Ranganathan, Josh Widdicombe, Tim Key and Suzi Ruffell on the bill.

On May 31 at Birmingham Rep, Joe Lycett (pictured) joins host Tiernan Douieb, Nish Kumar, Tez Ilyas, Allyson June Smith and Mrs Barbara Nice in the Stand Up For Refugees night.



## Charlotte brings her Pop Dungeon party

Pick of the gigs include US rock band The Districts - who delivered a blistering set at 2015 Glastonbury - at the O2 Institute on May 20, the same night the revived Echobelly play the Digbeth venue's other room. Charlotte Church brings her Pop Dungeon party to the same venue tomorrow (Friday) with other acts coming up there including The Cribbs, The Japanese House, Gavin DeGraw, veteran space rockers Hawkwind, Natalie Imbruglia, and Leftfield. The unclassifiable Hackney Colliery Band play Birmingham Rep on Saturday and pop sensation Ariana Grande plays the Genting Arena on May 18. Singer-songwriter Billy Rowan, AKA The Undercover Hippy, plays Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. Former chief Lemonhead Evan Dando is at the same venue on May 17.

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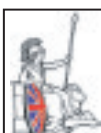
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CHOICE



**Graham Norton**  
**Eurovision Song Contest 2017 (BBC1, 8pm)**  
Graham Norton returns to the commentary box to cover all the action from tonight's Grand Final, broadcast live from the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev, Ukraine. The event begins with the traditional artists' parade, and an introduction by Oleksandr Skichko, Volodymyr Ostapchuk and Timur Miroshnychenko, the Ukrainian TV stars serving as the masters of ceremonies tonight. The host nation, represented by alternative rock outfit O.Torvald, will join the 'Big Five' - France, Spain, Germany, Italy and the UK - in progressing directly through to the final, with the other 20 finalist spots being filled by the acts that made it through the semi-finals.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.45 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Castleford Tigers v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Who Dares Wins. 6.05 BBC News. 6.15 Regional Programme. 6.25 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman invite another selection of famous faces to take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. As always, the challengers are tasked with producing the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. This time, all the contestants come from the world of comedy, as Andi Osho teams up with Holly Walsh, Kevin Eldon joins forces with Dave Johns, Barry Cryer works alongside Omid Djalil, and Stephen Frost throws his lot in with Helen Atkinson-Wood.  
**7.15 Doctor Who.** The Tardis picks up a distress call from deep space, but when the Doctor, Bill and Nardole try to answer it, they find themselves trapped on board the space station Chasm Forge. On further investigation, they discover all but four people on board the facility have been murdered - but the dead are still walking. Now stranded in a future where oxygen is sold by the breath, and space-suits are valued more highly than their occupants, the time-travellers face a battle for survival against the darkest evil of all. Sci-fi adventure, starring Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas.  
**8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 2017.** Graham Norton takes to the commentary box to cover all the action from tonight's Grand Final, broadcast live from the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev, Ukraine.  
**11.25 BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.  
**11.45 Film: Fallen.** (1998) A detective discovers a demon able to jump between unsuspecting human hosts is behind a series of murders. Supernatural thriller, starring Denzel Washington and John Goodman.  
**1.45 Weather** for the Week Ahead. **1.50 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.40 Film:** God's Little Acre. (1958) **8.25 Talking Pictures:** Hollywood Actresses. (R) **9.10 Film:** The Glass Bottom Boat. (1966) **11.00 Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape.** (R) **12.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **12.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **2.15 Flog It!** **3.00 Trust Me, I'm A Vet.** (R) **4.00 Gardeners' World.** (R) **5.00 Live Women's FA Cup Final.** Birmingham City Ladies v Manchester City Women (Kick-off 5.15pm).  
**7.30 Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose.** The first of two programmes in which adventurer Paul Rose explores the 79 miles of the Yorkshire Wolds Way, one of Britain's least well-known national walking trails. The trail starts at the Humber Estuary and ends at the North Yorkshire seaside resort of Filey. On the way, Paul takes in the views from the top of the Humber Bridge, learns to ride a penny farthing and searches out the spots made internationally famous by the artist David Hockney.  
**8.00 Dad's Army.** The platoon rescues the verger from being carried away by a barrage balloon and the men take it off to the woods to secure it to a tree. Unfortunately they let go of the ropes too early and it floats off - taking Captain Mainwaring with it. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1969, starring Arthur Lowe, John Laurie, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)  
**8.30 Film: Woman in Gold.** (2015) Premiere. An elderly Austrian woman who fled the country during the Second World War returns to her home country in search of justice. Several art treasures belonging to her family were seized by the Nazis when she escaped, including a famous painting by Klimt, and she enlists the aid of an American lawyer in reclaiming them from the current government. Fact-based drama, starring Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds and Daniel Bruhl.  
**10.10 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Stoke City v Arsenal at the Bet365 Stadium and Manchester City v Leicester City at the Emirates Stadium.  
**11.25 Versailles:** (R) Inside Versailles.  
**12.25 Film:** Therese Desqueyroux. (2012) **2.10** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockor Street.** (R) **6.25 Sooty.** (R) **6.35 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **6.40 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00 Outbuds.** (R) **7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** (R) **7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu.** (R) **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Home Game.** (R) **10.20 Judge Rinder.** (R) **11.20 Tipping Point.** (R) **12.20 ITV News.** Weather. **12.30 Bigheads.** (R) **1.30 Film:** The Man in the Iron Mask. (1998) Adventure, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.  
**4.00 Paul O'Grady:** For the Love of Dogs. (R) **4.30 Catchphrase.** (R) **5.15 Britain's Got More Talent.** (R)  
**6.15 Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.25 ITV News:** Weather.  
**6.45 Take Me Out.**  
**8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host as the fifth round of auditions gets under way, and more hopeful stars take to the stage in a bid to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. So far this year, the panel has been entertained by the likes of acrobatic dancers, a junior magician inspired by Harry Potter, and a comedy dance duo who roped Ant and Dec into their routine. Simon Cowell and Alesha Dixon have already hit their Golden Buzzer to send singer Sarah Ikumu and young all-girl dance troupe Just Us through to the live shows, and Amanda Holden threw her support behind comedian Daliso Chaphonda. David Walliams and Ant and Dec are yet to cast their votes, but have offered a few teasers about what to expect from their chosen performers.  
**9.15 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show.** Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness enlist the aid of Will Mellor, Robbie Williams, Sarah Parish, Emma Willis and Chris Kamara and others as they remake the 1984 classic Ghostbusters.  
**9.45 Film: The Mask.** (1994) A timid bank clerk finds an ancient mask that gives whoever wears it superhuman powers and unbridled self-confidence. Comic-book comedy, starring Jim Carrey.  
**10.45 ITV News:** Weather.  
**11.00 Film: The Mask.** (1994) Concluded.  
**12.00 Jackpot247. 3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Motor Sport:** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45 Motor Sport:** British Rally Championship. **7.10 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.55 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **12.50 Come Dine with Me.** **1.25 Come Dine with Me.** **1.55 Come Dine with Me.** **2.25 Come Dine with Me.** **2.55 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **3.55 Big House, Little House.** **5.00 Channel 4 News.** **5.30 Formula 1:** Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights  
**7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke returns to Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to catch up with ambitious property developers Mark Hinchliffe and Laura Ruston. Three years ago, Mark and Laura began the process of converting a Sunday school building, which they would then sell to raise funds to begin work on the church next door. However, as costs began to spiral out of control, it became clear a compromise might need to be made between practicality and Mark's high standards.  
**8.00 Walks with My Dog.** New series. Famous people explore the British outdoors while taking their four-legged friends for a stroll, beginning with Robert Lindsay, Angela Griffin and Phil Spencer. Previously seen on More4.  
**9.00 Film: 12 Years a Slave.** (2013) A free black man living in pre-Civil War New York is abducted and sold into slavery. He spends the next 12 years struggling to survive and maintain his dignity in the face of brutal treatment, while clinging to a desperate hope that he can return to his family. Oscar-winning historical drama based on Solomon Northup's autobiographical book, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Benedict Cumberbatch and Brad Pitt.  
**11.35 Film: AVP: Alien vs Predator.** (2004) Scientists are caught up in a battle between two races of deadly extraterrestrial creatures in a mysterious pyramid. Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan and Lance Henriksen.  
**1.20 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **9.55 The Fairly OddParents.** (R) **10.30 Access.** (R) **10.35 The Gadget Show.** (R) **11.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **2.30 FIA Formula E Live: Monaco.** The fifth round of the season. **4.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **5.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R)  
**6.10 5 News Weekend.**  
**6.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In south London, a father-and-son team face death threats from a debtor's father, while in east London, a tenant claims to have had no prior warning that he is being evicted. (R)  
**7.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Officers Gary and Cona chase up nearly £50,000 in unpaid rent, and Del and Max bid to collect more than £10,000 from a beauty salon for a disgruntled former employee.  
**8.00 NCIS.** Tony finds himself in a difficult position when his identity is stolen. Worse yet, multiple fraudsters make use of his status as a special agent to blackmail US senators, and as the chain of events begins to spiral out of control, it is left to the real Dinoz to bring the perpetrators to justice. Naval crime drama, starring Michael Weatherly.  
**9.00 NCIS.** Gibbs teams up with his old friend Senior FBI Agent TC Fornell to track down two British prisoners who escaped to the US via a shipping container.  
**9.55 NCIS: Los Angeles.** Part two of two. The teams fly to Los Angeles from Hawaii in pursuit of Jarrod Taylor, who claims he is being paid by an immunologist. Crossover episode with Hawaii Five-0.  
**10.50 Moors Murders: Britain's Worst Crime.** An insight into the crimes of Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, establishing the chronology of their acts and explaining why it took so long for the pair to be brought to justice. (R)  
**11.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)  
**12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10** Top 20 Funniest. **4.00 Criminals:** Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.15 Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Nature's Great Events **8.00** Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of The American Northwest **9.00** Hinterland **10.25** Top of the Pops: 1983 **11.35** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **12.35** Kate Bush at the BBC **1.35** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **2.35** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **3.40** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.00** Britain's Got Talent **12.15** Britain's Got More Talent **1.15** Take Me Out **2.30** Take Me Out - The Gossip **3.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **4.30** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.35** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.35** FYI Daily **7.40** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **8.20** Scorpion **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.15** Film: American Pie (1999) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50** Film: American Pie (1999) **2.35** The Hot Desk: Nick Jonas **2.45** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**11.05** Film: Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **2.00** Lewis **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.00** The Classic Car Show **12.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Ascot. **4.30** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **6.20** Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **6.35** Storage Wars **7.05** The Sweeney **8.05** Better Late Than Never **9.00** Film: Conan the Destroyer (1984) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Conan the Destroyer (1984) **11.10** Film: Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **1.25** Ironside **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen  
**E4**  
**12.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** Film: The Spy Next Door (2010) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Van Helsing (2004) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.50** RuDe Tube **2.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.30** Black-ish **3.50** New Girl **4.35** Charmed  
**Film4**  
**11.00** A Thousand Words (2012) **1.00** Field of Dreams (1989) **3.05** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.40** The Three Musketeers (1973) **6.50** Robot (2004) **9.00** Salt (2010) **11.00** The Haunting (1999) **1.10** Fright Night (1985)

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**The Rowley Bar & Grill has become famous for its massive mixed grills since it opened its doors just two years ago.**  
The pub/restaurant, specialising in Indian food, aims to offer people a great experience with good beer and food as well as entertainment.  
Owner Rav Singh opened the Rowley Bar & Grill in Hawes Lane on May 21, 2015, after refurbishing the old Rowley Regis Conservative Club Pennant House building.  
The Rowley, which is open 12 noon to 11pm seven days a week, also shows all the major sporting events on Sky and BT Sport television, ranging from boxing and darts to football and cricket on its 10 plasma screens.

Favourite

"We aim to offer our customers a great experience and we get a lot of repeat custom. People come here from as far afield as central Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Belbroughton. Word is really spreading about The Rowley," said Mr Singh, who leads a team of more than a dozen staff, including three chefs.  
"Our mega mixed grill is a big favourite and as well as our Indian food, including curries, we now also offer steaks and burgers," he added.  
The open plan pub/restaurant has a restaurant area with 120 covers and the bar area can accommodate 100. Customers have a choice of eating in either area. As well as an ever changing selection of four draught real ales it offers a selection of lager



Favourites include mega mixed grill and the Indian food

and cider. All beers are £2.30 a pint.  
Mr Singh, who is proud of The Rowley's five-star grading for food hygiene with Sandwell Council, said that his policy was to provide high standard service in a clean environment and give the public what they want.  
Bookings can be made by phone or online and The Rowley Bar & Grill, which has a large car park, can also cater for private functions.

**Rowley Bar & Grill, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, B65 9AE**  
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CHOICE



**British Academy Television Awards 2017 (BBC1, 8pm)**  
Sue Perkins hosts the awards ceremony from London's Royal Festival Hall. The Crown, Planet Earth II, The Last Leg, People Just Do Nothing, The Real Marigold Hotel and Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway are among the shows in the running, while stars nominated for awards include Benedict Cumberbatch, Olivia Colman, Clare Foy, Adeel Akhtar, Steve Coogan, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Sarah Lancashire and Tom Hollander.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker reports on a plan to preserve the Suffolk Broadlands and its wildlife with a vast land purchase, while Ellie Harrison visits a community-run farm where all waste is re-used. John Craven celebrates National Mills Weekend at Bardwell, Tom Heap investigates egg thieves who are endangering rare birds, and Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith meet a young farmer nominated for special recognition by viewers. **8.00** British Academy Television Awards 2017. Sue Perkins hosts the awards ceremony from London's Royal Festival Hall. Shows in the running include The Crown, Planet Earth II, The Last Leg and People Just Do Nothing. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman is joined by Jermaine Jenas to review the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United at White Hart Lane, Crystal Palace v Hull City at Selhurst Park and West Ham United v Liverpool at the Olympic Stadium. Plus, a look back at the rest of the weekend's fixtures. **11.45** Murder in Successville. DI Sleet and sidekick Reggie Yates go on a stag night that turns deadly when undercover detective Noel Edmunds is found dead in a compromising position. **12.15** Film: Forget Me Not. (2011) A musician comes to the aid of a barmaid being accosted by a drunk. Together they go on a journey around London and begin to fall in love, but as the night draws to a close, a secret threatens to bring their fledgling relationship to an end before it has begun. Romantic drama, with Tobias Menzies and Genevieve O'Reilly. **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.30** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Great British Menu. (R) **11.45** Great British Menu. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Triathlon World Series: Yokohama Highlights. **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Widnes Vikings (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Athletics: Diamond League Shanghai Highlights. **6.00** Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods are Made. Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey find out about the production of three household staples, beginning with bread. Gregg visits one of Britain's largest bakeries, which makes up to one and a half millions loaves each week, where he sees a machine that can bag a loaf in mid-air. Cherry is at a mill to discover the secret of making the perfect flour and historian Ruth Goodman shows the hidden killers that used to lurk within bread. (R) **7.00** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world, learning the tricks of the trade. (R) **8.00** Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life. Exploring the forests of the Yucatan Peninsula, which contain the ruins of the Mayan civilisation and a wide range of wildlife, including jaguars, monkeys and tropical birds. The region also holds a secret that is the key to how Mexico's people and animals are able to survive during the country's dry season. **9.00** Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay. Dara O'Brian and Ed Byrne reach Thailand, where they find out about locals' reaction to the tourist explosion in Bangkok, visit an elephant sanctuary and enjoy a massage. **10.00** Film: Half of a Yellow Sun. (2013) Two sisters pursue separate lives in newly-liberated Nigeria, only to get caught up in the civil war. Drama, starring Thandie Newton, Anika Noni Rose and Chiwetel Ejiofor. **11.45** Film: Memento. (2000) Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Guy Pearce and Carrie-Anne Moss. **1.45** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds: Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.55** ITV News: Weather. **12.10** Tipping Point. (R) **1.10** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.05** The Chase. (R) **3.05** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.20** Film: Live and Let Die. (1973) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which contestants compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of Simon Cowell, Vladimir Putin, Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. They must dodge past giant bouncers to get into a nightclub, fight over microphones to record a single, and get away before the paparazzi see them. With commentary from Jenny Powell and Kriss Akabusi. **8.00** The Durrells. Larry moves back into the family's villa having come down with mumps, which Louisa hopes will give Aunt Hermione an incentive to cancel her planned visit. Her hopes prove in vain when her overbearing relative turns up, accompanied by medium Mrs Haddock (Una Stubbs), who claims to be able to contact Louisa's husband. She tells Louisa that he is terribly unhappy about her numerous male admirers, fuelling her doubts over her relationship with Hugh, and proposes a seance on a stormy night to see his troubled spirit at rest. **9.00** Grantchester. A factory worker dies in what appears to be a drunken accident, but Georgie suspects foul play. However, secret forces are determined to shut down his investigation. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **3.40** Peston on Sunday. (R) **11.20** Lethal Weapon. (R) **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** Film: Dr Dolittle. (1998) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **3.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.15** Escape to Costa Rica. **6.15** Channel 4 News. **6.45** Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the fifth round of the season at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona, where Max Verstappen was the surprise winner last season. That was the first F1 win for the Dutchman, who became the youngest driver to ever win a Formula One Grand Prix at just 18 years and 228 days, replacing the record previously set by Sebastian Vettel. **9.00** The Island with Bear Grylls. The castaways enter their final days on the island, and Karen's health is deteriorating dangerously, as she suffers low blood sugar and diarrhoea. Ben and Jager try to catch some fish or hunt an elusive turkey, while Aran and Jacqui stumble across a calm crocodile – which while dangerous, may also be an urgently needed source of food. **10.00** Surviving The Island with Bear Grylls. The castaways look back on the past five weeks on the island, and Bear reveals which of the two groups did the best job of surviving. Last in the series. **11.00** Film: Prisoners. (2013) The distraught father of a missing child kidnaps a man he believes is responsible for her disappearance. Thriller, starring Hugh Jackman. **1.50** Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. Luxury design, including a custom-fitted bed company, a man who creates unique fragrances for clients' homes and Sol Campbell's wife Fiona, a leading light in the furniture world. (R) **2.45** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help couples in Hertfordshire and north London. (R) **3.40** Building the Dream. A couple build a home in the style of a Georgian rectory. **4.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Katie Taylor v Milena Koleva. **5.05** Gillette World Sport. With Kim Jung-Hwan, Johnny Durand and Antoine Griezmann.

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Mr Men. (R) **6.15** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Wisper. (R) **6.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.45** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.10** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **7.55** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.15** Wisper. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.05** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Access. (R) **10.40** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.10** Film: Michael. (1996) Fantasy comedy, starring John Travolta. **1.15** On Benefits: Breadline Brits. (R) **2.10** On Benefits: The Compensation King. (R) **3.10** On Benefits: Famous & Claiming. (R) **4.10** On Benefits: Spend it Like Beckham. (R) **5.10** Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. (R) **8.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring children doing bizarre and humorous things. Youngsters featured include sassy six-year-old Johanna, whose extraordinary performance of Aretha Franklin's Respect at her school recital in 2015 has been viewed more than 50 million times. Plus, three-year-old April, who blames a nail-polish disaster on her doll. Narrated by Iain Lee. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** When Game Shows Go Horribly Wrong. Dame Winton narrates a compilation of disastrous game show moments, featuring contestants on The Million Pound Drop failing to pay attention to a question with a fortune at stake, the least successful player to appear on The Chase, the woman who broke her leg on The Krypton Factor and still finished third and the Princess Diana-themed episode of Channel 5 quiz show 100%. **12.05** The Best of Bad TV: When Comedy Shows Go Wrong. More misjudged small-screen comedy, including the 1990 sitcom Heil Honey, I'm Home. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Top 20 Funniest. A man's new TV slips out of his hands. (R) **4.00** Streets of Rage: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Birth of British Music **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** DJ: Made in America **10.30** Storyville: Circus Elephant Rampage **11.25** Timeshift: How Britain Won the Space Race – The Story of Bernard Lovell and Jodrell Bank **12.25** Horizon: The Creative Brain – How Insight Works **1.25** Nature's Great Events **2.25** Michael Palin's Quest for Artemisia **3.25** Close **ITV2**  
**12.35** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **2.40** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.35** Britain's Got Talent **5.50** Britain's Got More Talent **6.50** Film: Step Up (2006) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Step Up (2006) **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.20** The Vampire Diaries **2.10** The Hot Desk: Zara Larsson **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**  
**12.05** Film: Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **1.40** A Touch of Frost **3.55** Foyle's War **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** The Queen's Garden **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.10** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** May the Best House Win **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**  
**1.40** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **4.05** Film: Apache (1954) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Apache (1954) **5.55** River Monsters **7.00** Fishing Impossible **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Car Crash Global **10.05** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **12.20** River Monsters **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**1.30** Baby Daddy **2.00** Kevin Can Wait **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** New Girl **3.30** Film: Thunderbirds (2004) **5.20** Rude(s)h Tube Shorts **5.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** Rude Tube **1.05** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year: The Finale **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **Film4**  
**1.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.45** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.30** The Thin Red Line **5.20** The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.35** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** Shutter Island (2010) **1.55** Eyes Without a Face (1960) **3.50** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Rise of the Krays, Channel 5, 10pm**  
 Biopic of the gangster brothers, exploring their formative years. Twins Ronnie and Reggie begin their criminal career as 18-year-old amateur boxers, and rapidly rise to become the most feared gang leaders in the London underworld, their brutal excesses observed by a close friend. Starring Kevin Leslie, Simon Cotton and Nicola Stapleton. (2015)

**TUESDAY**  
**Hannibal, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
 Fugitive serial killer Dr Hannibal Lecter has gone into hiding as an academic in Italy, but a disfigured victim is determined to find him and inflict a gruesome revenge. FBI agent Clarice Starling is once again drawn into the doctor's deadly orbit as she finds herself being used as bait for the avenger's trap. Ridley Scott's thriller sequel, starring Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore, Gary Oldman and Ray Liotta. (2001)



Hannibal, Tuesday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Debt, Channel 4, 1.25am**  
 Three Mossad agents are declared heroes in 1965 for apparently killing a notorious Nazi war criminal. Nearly 30 years later, they receive shocking news, as the secrets that were buried during the assignment come back to haunt them. Thriller, starring Helen Mirren. Tom Wilkinson, Ciaran Hinds, Jessica Chastain, Marton Csokas and Sam Worthington. (2010)

**THURSDAY**  
**Social Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 A talented student-to-be is targeted by a hacker who begins posting inappropriate content on her social network accounts. Mystery thriller, starring Kirsten Prout. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2013)

**FRIDAY**  
**The Mystery Cruise, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 During a three-day murder-mystery game on board a cruise ship to promote the release of her bestselling mother's latest novel, a private investigator and her best friend suspect that a real killer may be on the loose. Thriller, starring Gail O'Grady, Michelle Harrison and Venus Terzo. (2013)

# Walking into a nightmare that looks like it will never end

In 2010, the BBC drama Five Daughters won praise for its sensitive look at the victims of the Ipswich serial murders and the impact the crimes had on their families.

Now the producers and director are reuniting for Three Girls, a three-part series which is broadcast over consecutive nights and draws on the true stories of the victims of sexual abuse in Rochdale.

The case shocked Britain and led to nine men being convicted and sentenced, but the drama focuses on the children who were groomed during the period 2008 to 2012.

Writer Nicola Taylor, whose previous credits include the one-off Sheridan Smith drama The C Word, believes that despite the publicity the case received, the girls' stories were not always heard. She says: "Whatever I thought I knew about what had happened in Rochdale, I knew nothing until I met the girls and their families.

"Listening to them was the beginning of understanding – not

just of the terrible suffering they experienced, but of the courage it took to persist and persist over years, in telling authorities who didn't want to know, and ultimately participate in the court proceedings that brought justice."

The series has been made with the full cooperation of the victims and their families, and director Philippa Lowthorpe pays tribute to their bravery. She says: "It's both a privilege and a responsibility to be allowed to tell this powerful, true story. I have huge respect for the girls and their families for sharing their experiences with us. It's through their courage in speaking out that we can try to understand the devastating effects of grooming.

"During the research, not only was it incredibly moving hearing the stories of the girls and their families, but also the experiences of those who fought to protect the girls and bring the perpetrators to justice."

In Three Girls, Maxine Peake and Lesley Sharp will play two women who were instrumental in getting the girls' voices heard. The impressive

supporting cast also includes Paul Kaye, Lisa Riley and Jill Halfpenny as parents of the girls, alongside Aze Bhatti as Nazir Afzal, former Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North West. The real Afzal believes it's a story that needs to be told, saying: "The Rochdale case was both ground-breaking and heart-breaking.

"It forced every agency to look at their ways of working afresh and the creation of the first guidance for prosecutors, police, and local authorities. The case caused seismic and long-overdue change in the way trials involving vulnerable victims were dealt with. At last, victims had a voice."

However, that still seems a long way off in the first episode, which introduces us to Holly (Molly Windsor), who is now to Rochdale and trying to fit in. Instead, she finds herself drawn into a world she can't escape, despite her pleas for help.

But her story sounds all too familiar to sexual health worker Sara (Peake), who has been recording and reporting similar stories of child abuse for years.



Maxine Peake stars in Three Girls, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Ivanka Trump: America's Real First Lady? Channel 4, 9pm**

Donald Trump's presidency has so far been dramatic, unpredictable and mired in controversy. But amid the mayhem, there is one woman who appears to hold more influence over him than his wife Melania or his special advisors – his 35-year-old daughter Ivanka. Matt Frei travels to the United States to find out more about the model-turned-businesswoman, exploring where she fits into her father's administration, how she aligns her women's rights campaigns with the President's more controversial views, and whether she dreams of sitting in the Oval Office herself one day.

**TUESDAY**  
**First Dates Channel 4, 10pm**

The latest episode of the often touching series introduces us to violinist Maggie, who's 63 and has played in orchestras all around the world. She's looking for a man who shares her passion for the finer things in life, but can retired police officer and recent divorcee Alistair meet her exacting standards? Meanwhile, IT consultant Patrick is about to go on his first date in seven years with 29-year-old marketing student Angharad. They're

both self-proclaimed misfits, but will they find they fit together? We also meet 19-year-old bricklayer Molly, who works with men all day long but has yet to find her perfect man. Warehouse worker Hussein is usually confident with the ladies, but dealing with someone who considers herself one of the lads could catch him off guard.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Trust Me, I'm A Vet BBC2, 8pm**

In the final episode, Judy Puddifoot investigates the warning signs dogs give out before becoming aggressive, and Steve Leonard looks into the latest research that suggests feeding your cat only fish-based pet foods over the long term could lead to health problems. Elsewhere, Alice Rhodes discovers that one in five cats in the UK lives in a state of long-term anxiety because they share a house with another cat, and she runs a series of unique experiments to test different stress-reducing methods. Last in the series.

**THURSDAY**  
**Kat and Alfie: Redwater BBC1, 8pm**

EastEnders fans will remember that during Kat Moon's (nee Slater) last visit to Walford, she made a discovery that was shocking even by soap standards. It turned out that when she gave birth to her daughter Zoe as a teenager, she passed out and didn't realise that she also delivered a baby boy, who was given up for adoption without her knowledge. Now this six-part spin-off follows Kat (Jessie Wallace) and Alfie (Shane Richie) as they search for her son, a hunt that takes them to the Irish town of Redwater. Alfie tries to make Kat promise that she will keep a low-profile, but that has never been his wife's style, especially when she meets



Kat and Alfie: Redwater, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

Campion) and starts to suspect that he could be her long-lost child.

**FRIDAY**  
**River Monsters ITV, 8pm**

New series. Extreme angler Jeremy Wade turns his attention from freshwater mysteries to the world's oceans, going in search of the real creature behind the enduring sea serpent legend. Starting in his own backyard, Jeremy fishes in the English Channel on the trail of a violent attack. His investigation leads him to Thailand where the mythology of the sea serpent reveals a vital clue.

**Count Arthur Strong BBC1, 8.30pm**

Thanks to shows like The X Factor, The Voice and Britain's Got Talent, it's more likely for performers to become famous overnight rather than working their way to the top. However, as with many journeys in life, sometimes taking the longer route can be much more satisfying. Comedian Steve Delaney is now in his early 60s, and in the last decade or so he has finally found a fanbase and acclaim thanks to this award-winning sitcom. Tonight the new series begins as the eternally optimistic ex-variety star is enlisted to rid a haunted house of its demonic occupants.

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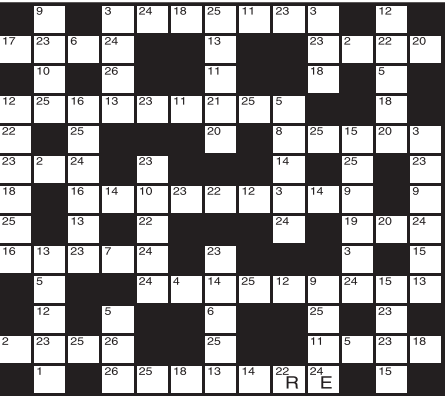


# BRAIN GYM

No.429

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22 R
10	23
11	24 E
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	U	V	W	O	N	P	S	A	C	F	X	G
14	M	D	T	R	Q	B	Y	K	E	I	L	H
J												

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

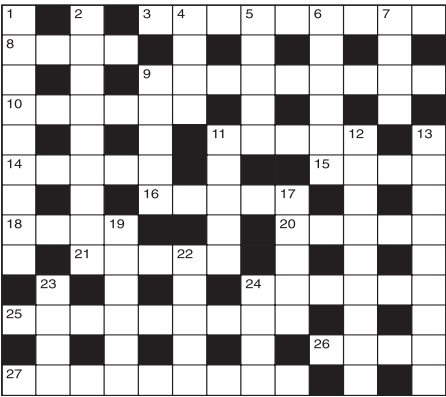
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Make a speech about where people live? (9)
- The destination of this trip is an ancient city (4)
- The inference is that it is to be taken away (9)
- Set of games that can be stretched (6)
- The length of the beat? (5)
- Showing slackness, mislay a ring inside (5)
- Always having some of the very best (4)
- The correct side? (5)
- They have a habit of community membership (4)
- Draws lines for players to keep within (5)
- But bad - do - earlier causes uncertain opinion (5)
- This bird is about right in the morning (6)
- Didn't pay up - a shortcoming indeed (9)
- It's hard work producing tip-top lubrication (4)
- To go back to her would be sensible but for this (9)

#### Down

- Sensational beginning includes learner (9)
- Mute discovered how to astonish (9)
- Sounds like an expensive animal (4)
- The way for 8 out East (5)
- Write crucial piece having taken seat with anger (6)
- Cupid got up irritable (4)
- Put off being freed, in a way (5)
- Could be a show of strength (5)
- Development: coup d'etat ousts right (9)
- By and by bearing gifts? (9)
- Rated surface of tyre (5)
- Thus given ornamental fabric to comfort (6)
- Feel depressed underneath (5)
- Abandoned one side (4)
- What a muddle where the troops eat! (4)



### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Watcher (9)
- Standard (4)
- Equipped (9)
- Unimpaired (6)
- Punitive (5)
- Recess (5)
- Cripple (4)
- Hinder (5)
- God of Thunder (4)
- Keen (5)
- Get to (5)
- Pour from one vessel to another (6)
- Two-sided (9)
- Stigma (4)
- Mildness (9)

#### Down

- Affront (9)
- Guardian (9)
- Covenant (4)
- Shut (5)
- Starry (6)
- Finished (4)
- Stood in (5)
- Repair (5)
- Ludicrous (9)
- Land (9)
- Drive back (5)
- Stay (6)
- Purify (5)
- Poster (4)
- Platform (4)

## Sudoku

		1		7		9		
4		9		1				
	5		4			2	6	
5	1		9		8		6	4
			7					
	8			5	2		3	1
3	2						4	
		4		6	9			8
9		8			3			

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	8	3	2	9	1	6	4
2	9	4	8	6	1	3	7	5
6	3	1	7	4	5	9	2	8
4	1	9	2	8	6	7	5	3
3	6	2	1	5	7	4	8	9
8	5	7	4	9	3	2	1	6
1	2	6	9	7	4	5	3	8
9	8	3	5	1	2	6	4	7
7	4	5	6	3	8	9	2	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Rare; 3 Threaded; 8 Veto; 9 Sing-sing; 11 Serve at table; 13 Oyster; 14 Tickle; 17 Estate agents; 20 Aptitude; 21 Aria; 22 Departed; 23 Edge. Down: 1 Revision; 2 Returns; 4 Hoists; 5 Engravings; 6 Drill; 7 Digs; 10 Benefactor; 12 Seascope; 15 Kindred; 16 Needle; 18 Sit up; 19 Band. QUICK - Across: 1 Slim; 3 Cauldron; 8 Axe; 9 Probable; 11 Overpowering; 13 Resist; 14 Stable; 17 Demonstrated; 20 Isolated; 21 Zero; 22 Prevents; 23 Snug. Down: 1 Seaboard; 2 Illness; 4 Arrows; 5 Laboratory; 6 Robin; 7 Need; 10 Episcopate; 12 Headlong; 15 Between; 16 Assent; 18 Evolve; 19 Limp.

## Quiz

- What is neutralised by degaussing?
- Which mime artist created the clown-harlequin Bip?
- On which island is Les Hanois Lighthouse?
- What is the common name for Marburg disease?
- What do we call a fibrous skeleton of the fruit of Luffa cylindrica?
- Which religious group was established by Mary Baker Eddy in 1879?
- In which country was the Rosetta Stone discovered in 1799?
- Who is singer Tara Newley's mother?
- What is petrol called in America?
- Who wrote the tragedy Medea?

### Last week's solutions:

**Quiz:** 1 General Tom Thumb; 2 Hinduism; 3 Brighton; 4 Lionel Bart; 5 Starfish; 6 Tripoli; 7 A rodent; 8 Two; 9 Ann Miller; 10 Cambridgeshire.  
**Niner:** DEFLATION

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

739163  
9446789  
215587

gives a bird,  
gives a second bird,  
gives a young bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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# Pigot — so close to perfection

I can't pretend that I am a stranger to the Pigot Arms in Pattingham. Having lived in the South Staffordshire village for more than three decades I must confess I have frequented the pub on many occasions over the years.

In that time I have seen many changes, both of staff and the look of the pub — mostly inside not out.

In the past it was always a bit hit and miss as far as the food was concerned — you never quite knew whether you would leave extolling its virtues or very disappointed. But not now, when the latest management took over a few years ago the food and the whole atmosphere changed for the better.

You can tell by looking in the windows, where there were empty tables now the place is full of diners and it caters a lot for larger parties. Not only people like me who can take a five-minute walk to get there.

Obviously the locals are there but many diners come from further afield — and there is a huge car park and an outside area for children to run around. The word has obviously spread. Word of mouth is so important and if people have a good meal and enjoy the decor and atmosphere they tell their friends.

We went recently to a taster night for the new menu, an excellent idea when you can try just snippets of what is going to be on offer. Obviously you can't try everything on the menu but it is, as it says, a little taste of the quality of the food and the range of choices.

Our daughter was visiting from Warwickshire with her fiancé and as she grew up in the village she is always keen to go to the Pigot, a regular haunt when she was growing up. We popped down the four of us recently, my husband and I and Amy with her fiancé Duncan,

Attractive entrance to the Pigot Arms in Pattingham



Sarah Lathwood and team member Sara Hadley



mainly to discuss her forthcoming wedding but also just to relax and appreciate somebody else cooking.

Amy is herself a very competent cook and a good food critic so I relied on her opinion. Me, I just love food. We all tucked into starters but decided not to go for one of the sharers. Probably a good idea as my future son-in-law loves food as much as I do and probably would have had the lion's share!

So with the bottle of Prosecco and Merlot well under way we opted for four different starters. Always nice to try a bit of each, I opted for the crispy calamari while the rest chose tomato bruschetta, king prawn cocktail and ham and pea terrine — all went down very well, although

Duncan was not for sharing. I'll have to have a word with him! For mains my husband is a real steak fan so went for the rib eye cooked medium rare just to his liking. Duncan, of course, had the HUGE mixed grill while I opted for the Moroccan spiced lamb burger which I had tried at the taster night and enjoyed. Amy went for the guest ale battered cod and chips.

Every meal is served well presented and with little fuss and the settings are spacious with a nice corner table which we sat at, although we did remove the rather lovely candelabra in the middle.

A nice touch but I could not see across to talk to my daughter over the other side. She did think about

nickling it for the wedding though! Okay, totally full — but it would be rude not to try a pud. Yes I am trying to lose weight for the wedding but there are still a few months to go.

By now there was only Duncan and I up for it — the lightweights said they were full. How could I resist the summer pudding? Duncan meanwhile went for the calorie-loaded cookie cup explosion. Obviously also not sticking to his pre-wedding diet. Finishing off with two floater brandy coffees we stumbled home and reflected on a very pleasant evening.

Sue Attwater

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## Three-bed house boasts penthouse-style master suite

Coming with a magnificent, penthouse-style, second floor principal bedroom suite, this four-bedroom property in Richborough Drive, Dudley, is for sale through Taylors at £249,995.

Being tremendously enhanced and enlarged, with gas central heating and double glazing, this property lies at the head of a favoured cul-de-sac and has panoramic

### DUDLEY

£249,995

distant views. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, fitted cloakroom, transverse 22'10" lounge/dining room with a conservatory beyond, a kitchen and utility room.

On the first floor there are three bedrooms (one with a shower room en-suite) and a bathroom.

The second floor features the 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with a centre piece 'Jacuzzi', and floor to ceiling glazing. There is also a garden and a garage.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)

## Five-bedroom home must be viewed to fully appreciate size

### LOWER GORNAL

£339,950

>>>

Viewing is highly recommended for this five-bedroom detached home in Water Road, Lower Gornal, to fully appreciate its size and ambience.

A much-loved family home, it is for sale through Swinscoes at £339,950.

It includes great communal areas in the kitchen/diner with its central island, wood burner, access to rear garden, guest WC and a vast selection of wall and base units providing ample space for all appliances. The large comfortable lounge features a log burner and the room opens into the conservatory which is presently used as a dining room. Upstairs you have five good-sized bedrooms, a family bathroom and guest WC.

Call 01902 672274.



# Hicks Hadley

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£1,300 pcm+Fees**  
A superbly presented detached family home in prime central location close to all amenities and comes part furnished. Featuring: entrance hallway, dining room, delightful lounge, conservatory, large refitted stunning breakfast/kitchen with centre island & integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms, master en-suite, house bathroom, landscaped rear garden, garage & driveway. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Newfield Crescent£795 pcm+Fees**  
Stunning large 3 bedroom semi-detached in this very popular location, close to town centre and schools. Front lounge with gas fire, large open-plan kitchen with island, dining & living area leading to patio doors and back garden. Downstairs shower room/utility area, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and dressing area, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with large jacuzzi bath. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hurst Green Road£725 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely large end terraced home in this popular area of Hurst Green featuring 3 good size bedrooms, also an additional loft room for storage/office room (games room etc), spacious lounge, kitchen/dining area with a table and chairs, modern house bathroom with shower, downstairs w.c., driveway for 1/2/3 cars. A property not to be missed! EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Lansdowne Road£750 pcm+Fees**  
A beautifully presented 3 bedroom semi detached house recently completely refurbished to a high standard situated close to motorway links & local amenities. The property briefly comprises of: front lounge, back reception room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker/double oven, fridge/freezer, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, family bathroom with separate shower, front & rear garden with large driveway. Early viewings are highly recommended. EPC: F



**St Peters Road, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2675 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely 3 storey town house located in a quiet & popular location close to Bumble Hole & Warrens Hall nature reserve, entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms & refitted bathroom. NOT TO BE MISSED! EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Reddall Hill Road£675 pcm+Fees**  
An immaculate 3 bedroom modern semi detached property benefiting from: Entrance hall, lounge, lovely fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c., 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens, allocated parking for 2 vehicles. EPC: C



**BARTLEY GREEN, Ludford Drive£650 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for Woodgate Primary School, this newly decorated 3 large bedroom terraced house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, separate w.c., rear garden with storage shed. EPC: D



**QUINTON, College Road £650 pcm+Fees**  
Traditional 2 bedroom terraced house in a very desirable & convenient location close to shops, 24hr gym & bus route directly into Birmingham City Centre. The property has a lovely front reception room, large kitchen with dining area, utility room, downstairs w.c., private rear garden. Upstairs there are 2 good size bedrooms & a modern family bathroom with separate corner shower. Not to be missed! EPC: B



**BIRMINGHAM, St Pauls Place£600 pcm+Fees**  
A part furnished ground floor studio apartment in St Pauls Square. The apartment features access via secure concierge entrance, hallway, fitted bathroom suite with shower over bath, bedroom area with fitted wardrobes and chest of drawers, open plan kitchen/lounge area with sofa and fitted appliances, including fridge, oven, hob and washing machine. EPC: B



**BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Road£595 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely modern back to back property within walking distance of Brierley Hill Town Centre. This property is available on a furnished basis for £595pcm or unfurnished at £550pcm. This 2 bed property features: fitted kitchen with appliances, lounge, shower room, 1 double bedroom and 1 single. Also benefits from one allocated parking space, decking and patio area to front of property. VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO APPRECIATE THIS PROPERTY. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, Lodgefield Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely unfurnished semi detached house on a popular road. This home features 2 good size bedrooms, living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, modern shower room, front & rear gardens with driveway parking. An opportunity not to be missed. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, School Lane£575 pcm+Fees**  
FURNISHED. A 2 bedroom cottage of immense character in the central Halesowen area is now available. Front reception room featuring beamed ceiling, wooden floor, fireplace, country style kitchen with dining area, stairs leading to 1st floor double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with corner bath and electric shower, 2nd floor double bedroom also with fitted wardrobes. Not to be missed. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hawne Court£525 pcm+Fees**  
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



**ROWLEY REGIS, Truro Close£500 pcm+Fees**  
●●● 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE ●●● Ideal for access to the M5 J2, Rowley Regis Train Station and local shops. This lovely unfurnished or part furnished semi detached back to back house features living room, fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom (NO SHOWER), gas central heating, front & side gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, The Forge £525 pcm+Fees**  
Part furnished or Unfurnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room with sofas, kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



**BRIERLEY HILL, Bell Street£465 pcm+Fees**  
Conveniently located for Brierley Hill Town Centre and Merry Hill Shopping Centre. A lovely ground floor apartment set in quiet surroundings. This lovely apartment featuring a modern fitted kitchen, 2 large double bedrooms, spacious lounge, modern bathroom with shower, allocated parking. Available now and not to be missed. EPC: B



**OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees**  
Decapitely large & spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue£425 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished, large, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. MINIMUM CONTRACT OF 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



**STOURBRIDGE, Stambemill House£425 pcm+Fees**  
Fully refurbished apartments within a stones throw of Stourbridge Town Centre and on the number 9 bus route. This stunning 1 bedroom apartment on the 1st floor features an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: C



**BRIERLEY HILL, The Breeze£400 pcm+Fees**  
A delightful modern 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment in this convenient position within easy distance of local schools, shops, road and public transport links. Open plan lounge/ fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom, bathroom with shower (OFF THE BEDROOM). Allocated parking for 1 car. EPC: B



**LYE/STOURBRIDGE, High Street£375 pcm+Fees**  
In the Centre of Lye which is ideal for buses, shops and Lye Train Station. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern & contemporary kitchen/ diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: E



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### Halesowen



#### Highland Ridge

\* Traditional Style Detached Family House  
\* Extended at Ground and First Floor Levels and Utilising Roof Space \* Principal Bedroom with En-suite  
\* Three/Four Further Bedrooms \* House Bathroom  
\* Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room  
\* Utility Room, Fitted Cloakroom \* Landscaped Gardens, Garage \* A Must View Property EPC=Ibc  
**Offers in the region of £500,000**



### Stourbridge



#### Gladstone Road

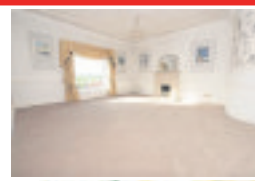
\* A Lovely Detached House \* Kitchen with Host of Appliances \* Lounge Opening to Gardens \* Fitted Cloakroom \* Principal Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room \* Two Further Bedrooms, House Bathroom \* Landscaped Enclosed Gardens  
\* Garage and Off Road Parking Space  
\* A Must View Property EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £255,000**



### Stourbridge Belbroughton



**Hackmans Gate Lane Brookfield House**  
\* Spacious one bedroom flat situated in Grade II listed building \* Idyllic Location  
\* Set in Extensive Grounds with Outdoor Swimming Pool \* Kitchen \* Living Room  
\* Bedroom with fitted wardrobe  
\* Well Appointed Bathroom with Shower Cubicle  
\* Garage and Parking EPC=D  
**£159,950**



### Oldbury



#### Birch Road

\* Link Detached House  
\* Convenient Location  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Garage and Carport  
\* Two Reception Rooms  
\* No Upward Chain  
EPC=Ibc  
**Offers in the region of £210,000**

### Oldbury



#### Penn cricket Court Penn cricket Lane

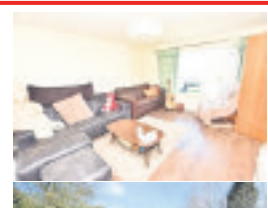
\* First Floor Flat  
\* Two Bedrooms  
\* Conveniently Situated for Transport Links  
\* Garage \* No Upward Chain  
\* Extended Lease  
EPC=E  
**Offers in the region of £75,000**

### Oldbury



#### Birch Grove

\* Detached Bungalow  
\* Living Room  
\* Dining Room  
\* Two Bedrooms  
\* Shower Room  
\* Side Garage  
\* Landscaped Gardens EPC=D  
**Offers in the region of £249,950**



### Quinton



#### Mayswood Grove

\* Semi Detached House  
\* Cul-De-Sac Location  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Through Living Room  
\* Kitchen  
\* Off Road Parking  
EPC=D  
**Offers in excess of £150,000**

### Stourbridge Wollaston



#### Belfry Drive

\* Detached House with Off Road Parking  
\* Conveniently Situated for Wollaston Village  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* En-suite Shower Room  
\* Living Room and Kitchen/Breakfast Room  
\* Downstairs wc  
\* Off Road Parking EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £249,950**

### Halesowen



#### Narrow Lane

\* Extended Semi-Detached House  
\* Extended Living Room and Kitchen  
\* Dining Room \* Utility and Downstairs wc  
\* Bathroom with Shower Cubicle  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Side Garage  
\* Good Sized Rear Garden EPC=Ibc  
**Offers in the region of £249,950**

### Oldbury



#### Hamilton Street

\* Semi-detached House Planned on Three Floors \* Breakfast Kitchen  
\* Lounge/Dining Room  
\* Master Bedroom with En-Suite  
\* Two Further Bedrooms  
\* House Bathroom  
\* Off Road Parking EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £209,950**

### Stourbridge Hagley



#### Kidderminster Road

\* An Impressive & Spacious Period House  
\* In Need of Refurbishment & Full of Unspoilt Features \* Semi Detached with Six Bedrooms & Bathroom \* 3 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Off Road Parking  
\* Pleasant Gardens EPC=G  
**Offers in the region of £350,000**

### Halesowen



#### Hope Street

\* Spacious Self Contained First Floor Maisonette  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Good-Sized Living Room  
\* Garage In Separate Block  
\* Pleasant Rear Garden  
EPC=C  
**Offers in excess of £110,000**

### Quinton



#### High Street

\* Deceptively Spacious Extended Four Bedroom Semi Detached  
\* Two Reception Rooms  
\* Kitchen/Breakfast Room  
\* Bathroom  
\* Ensuite Shower Room  
EPC=D  
**Offers in the region of £255,000**

### Halesowen Romsley



#### Romsley Hill Grange Farley Lane

\* Ground floor apartment  
\* Kitchen/dining room  
\* Two Bedrooms  
\* Living room  
\* Re-fitted shower room  
\* Communal gardens EPC=E  
**Offers in the region of £199,950**

### Halesowen



#### Wall Well

\* Detached two bedroom bungalow  
\* Lounge with conservatory opening to garden  
\* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room with host of appliances \* Well appointed bathroom with both bath and shower  
\* Detached garage and parking space  
\* Internal inspection recommended EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £230,000**

### Oldbury



#### Perry Court Hagley Road West

\* Self contained retirement flat  
\* Living room  
\* Kitchen  
\* Two bedrooms  
\* Bathroom  
EPC=C  
**Offers in excess of £70,000**

### Oldbury



#### Kingsway

\* Modern three storey family home  
\* Four good sized bedrooms (master with en-suite)  
\* Through living room  
\* Kitchen/dining room  
\* Garage  
\* No upward chain EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £265,000**

### Oldbury



#### Hanover Gardens

\* Modern semi-detached bungalow  
\* Well proportioned accommodation  
\* Two bedrooms  
\* Shower room  
\* Conservatory  
\* Detached garage  
EPC=C  
**Offers in excess of £180,000**

### Stourbridge



#### Wollaston Road, New Wood,

\* An improved detached family house with open aspect \* Four bedrooms with two en-suites and bathroom \* Dining area, lounge leading to conservatory \* Fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom \* Garage \* Landscaped garden  
\* A must view property EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £489,950**

### Halesowen



#### Manor Abbey Road

\* Traditional Detached House  
\* Two Reception Rooms  
\* Three Good Bedrooms  
\* Utility, Downstairs shower room with W.C.  
\* In need of general modernisation yet full of potential  
\* Sought After Location EPC=D  
**Offers in the region of £299,950**

### Halesowen



#### Manor Abbey Road

\* Superior Family Home  
\* Substantially Extended & Re-Planned  
\* Five Bedrooms (Two with Ensuite Shower Rooms) \* 'Wow' Factor Kitchen/Breakfast/Family Room \* Well Appointed Family Bathroom with Shower \* Good-Sized Rear Garden \* Must Be Viewed EPC=D  
**Offers in excess of £510,000**

### Halesowen



#### Victoria Avenue

\* Family house in need of general modernisation and improvement  
\* Principal bedroom with dressing room  
\* Bedroom two with study area off \* Bedroom three, house bathroom \* Dining hall, lounge, sitting room \* Kitchen/breakfast room \* Garage, workshop, extensive gardens EPC=E  
**Offers in the region of £340,000**

### Halesowen



#### Blackberry Lane

\* Quality detached family house  
\* Finished to a high specification  
\* Master and guest bedrooms both with en-suite  
\* Two further bedrooms and bathroom \* Study  
\* Superb fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility  
\* Dining room, lovely lounge, conservatory  
\* Gardens. Detached double garage EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £530,000**

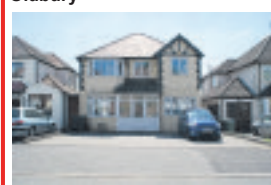
### Cradley Heath



#### Claremont Street

\* End Terraced House  
\* Living Room and Dining Room  
\* Kitchen/Breakfast Room  
\* Utility  
\* Two Bedrooms  
\* Ground Floor Bathroom  
\* Off Road Parking EPC=E  
**Offers in the region of £105,000**

### Oldbury



#### Oak Road

\* Dining room  
\* Living room  
\* Former garage/family room  
\* Kitchen and utility  
\* Bedroom two with en-suite  
\* Four further bedrooms  
\* Family bathroom EPC=D  
**Offers in the region of £309,950**

### Halesowen



#### Blackberry Lane

\* A detached family house with four bedrooms  
\* Lounge, dining room and study  
\* Principal bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom \* Fitted kitchen with host of appliances, utility room and fitted cloakroom  
\* Detached double garage, lovely gardens EPC=C  
**Offers in the region of £380,000**







# Local Specialists

33

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 11, 2017

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Mini Digger & Driver available  
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www.cressage-group.co.uk

## Electricians

### JS QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

Fuseboard upgrades / complete rewires / security alarms and lighting / fault finding and repairs / shower replacements and more  
Free quotations available  
Over 20 years' experience  
Contact now:  
**0121 531 6884 / 07753 393562**  
www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk  
j.selectricalservices@hotmail.co.uk

### MB electric

All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken  
Home rewiring from £800  
For a high quality local service call:  
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07939 503905  
mbelectric.co.uk

### ELECTRICIAN

Fully guaranteed work  
Honest reliable service  
**ANT ELECTRIC**  
Ring Tony or Julie on  
**07974 428 603**  
**KEEP IT LOCAL**  
'No Job Too Small'

## Fencing

### LBT Fencing

All types of quality fencing supplied & erected  
Plus decking, slabbing & block paving  
**FREE QUOTES**  
Tel: 0121 585 9992 or 07884 344616  
www.lbtffencing.co.uk

### Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken  
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling  
• Turfing • Garden Clearance  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL**  
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products  
eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards  
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken  
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)  
Call Steve on  
**01384 242891 or 07970 300586**

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### Arnold Laver

Quality Timber for your home & garden projects!  
All lengths available  
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Oldbury  
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West Midlands  
B69 3DA  
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F: 0121 544 7186  
E: birmingham@laver.co.uk

## Gardening

### R & S Gardens

• All garden work undertaken  
• Hedges and lawns cut  
• General tidy and rubbish removed  
• Garden landscaping and fencing work  
Telephone: **07851 323303**

## Landscaping

### CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping  
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• Garden tidy up's  
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• Chipper Hire  
• Complete Garden Ripout  
• Rubbish Removal  
• Bush/Hedge and Tree Removal  
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### ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal  
\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes  
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\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation  
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AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified  
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Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting  
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### MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Cuts, Colours, Perms etc  
Hair Extensions  
Call Lyndsey **07795 514858**

## Mot's

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**£27.99**  
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**FREE RE-TEST**  
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(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ  
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**MOT**

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
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2

E-mail us at...  
**mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk**

3

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG



# Local Specialists



## Plastering

**DH PLASTERERS**  
FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs to complete rooms  
**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES**  
0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466

## CI PLASTERING

All aspects of Plastering, Dry Lining, Skimming and Rendering, Artex Removed Insurance work undertaken  
Call for free estimates  
0121 4213934  
07748 644816

## Roofing

**Services**  
Fast and friendly service from a family run business, with over 10 years' experience  
**SPECIALISTS IN TILE, SLATE,** fibreglass flat roofing, flat felt roofing, uPVC, fascias, soffits and guttering, lead work, pointing and storm damage  
no job too big or too small  
For a free quote call  
0121 608 3522 or 07841 046 126  
Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PD

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For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.  
**No job too small**  
07538 718264

## Plumbing

**HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING**  
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)  
All installations and repairs  
**Supply and fit or fit only**  
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER  
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes  
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A Local Established Company  
Wasps ■ Ants  
Fleas ■ Bedbugs  
Flies ■ Rats/Mice  
Free Quotations  
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COVERING ALL AREAS OF DUDLEY & STOURBRIDGE  
Tel: 01384 829115  
Freephone: 0800 953 0093  
Mobile: 07919 562990  
www.greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk  
Email: sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk

## Plumbing & Heating

**KEN PERRY**  
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
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**P.S. Heating & Plumbing**  
Combi Boiler change from £950  
Specialists in Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more  
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS  
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Free Quotation  
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Fully Insured up to £2 million

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• Render/Repointing Brickwork  
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**FULLY Qualified FULLY Insured**  
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**K S SERVICES**  
All types of General Repairs to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
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No Job Too Small

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Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
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Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE  
Over 30 years experience  
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allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

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**MASSIVE SALE NOW ON**  
Upvc, Fascias, Soffits and Guttering  
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All rubbish removed  
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**JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES**  
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
Blackheath  
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or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

## Tiling

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Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.  
FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE  
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.  
Fully insured. Portfolio available.  
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## Local Specialists



# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## funeral directors

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Independent family run Funeral Directors  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794  
www.nedowning.co.uk

## monumental masons

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Modern and traditional memorials  
Ring for FREE brochure  
0121 550 4235  
Or visit our showroom at Somers Road, Halesowen B62 8EN  
www.halestonememorials.co.uk

## lost & found



**MISSING**  
Since April 30, 2017.  
All black cat named Jet.  
Was wearing red diamante collar, with info disc.  
Was hit by a car in Acres Road DY5 2YB and ran off.  
If found please contact Mike 07495 852289.  
Reward.

## 1 Family

## elderly & disabled

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR**, only used 3 times, new condition, Pronto M61, £750 ono.  
Telephone 01902 785163.  
**MOBILITY SCOOTER**  
Pride Colt mobility scooter Brand new condition. Only used once 20 mile range. 4 mph. 25 stone capacity. Blue. Cost over 2k. Free delivery.  
£695.00  
07738683560  
**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292  
**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

## bikes

**CUBE PELOTON BIKE**. Almost new white Cube Peloton bike. Cost just under £1,000. 56.5cm. Excellent condition. £250 ono. 01902 846979.

## car boot sales

**BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE**  
Only £5 per Car/Van.  
7AM START, Cocksparrow Lane, Cannock WS12 4PB  
07890 267 041

**IT'S BACK IT'S BACK MIDLANDS BIGGEST CAR BOOT SALE**  
THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY  
Now at Dark Lane, Featherstone W10 7HT  
Just off main A460.  
1 minute from J11 M6  
1 minute J1 M54  
6 am-2 pm  
All enquiries Tel: 07831 192 116  
Or for more information visit www.gocarbootsales.com

**BIGGEST SATURDAY BOOTSALE**  
Caravan positions available  
A454 Ridge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth  
By Royal Oak pub island W6 TEE  
07890 267 041

**WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE**  
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461, Springfield, Muckley Corner Lichfield WS14 0BX  
**SATURDAY BOOT SALE**  
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner, Lichfield WS14 0BU  
07890 267041

## caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW  
35x12 caravans from £1000. Par 3 golf, bowls & gym, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433  
ABI JUBILEE DIPLOMAT Two berth touring caravan, 1990. £550. 01922 477566.

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Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid  
Please Call  
AEG on 01384 848439 or  
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448  
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk  
**BAILEY SENATOR VERMONT**  
2-berth, 2004, high spec and quality caravan, one owner from new, in excellent condition both outside and in, alloys, hitch lock, stabiliser, unused spare wheel mounted under chassis. Built in intruder alarm, CRIS reg. Electric or gas central heating, also included is a small awning, heavy duty battery and wheel chocks.  
£4,000 o.n.o.  
01902 842067  
**COACHMAN 460/2 PASTICHE, 2005**  
Two berth, well maintained, excellent condition, including porch awning, spare wheel, two water barrels and waste.  
£5,500.  
01562 637925/07718761680

## LOOK

**COSALT RESORT STATIC CARAVAN**  
2 bedrooms, with DG and CH on a 11 months holiday park with club house on site in Stourport-on-Severn.  
£6,950.  
07810 044813 / 07801 530894.  
**DOREMA FULL AWNING**, as new, used once, blue/grey, matching curtains, size 13'5" x 5'0" 97cm. £250 ono. 07904 612854.



**SITED PARK HOME**  
Near Bewdley. On bus route. 3 bedrooms. As new.  
Own garden driveway.  
£89,950  
07774 715830.  
**STATIC CARAVAN**  
35 x 12, with large decking, 2 bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to coast, ground rent included for 2017.  
£8,000.  
07555 303350.

## 3 Home & Services

## collectables & memorabilia

**QUEEN ANNE** dolls house with basement and front steps, fully furnished, decorated and lit, excellent condition. £470. 01384 410882.  
**WANTED SUNBEAM CAR MEMORABILIA**  
from 1899 to 1939.  
Interested in pictures, literature, handbooks, drawings, patterns or very early car parts.  
Also, seeking a car registration number on retention DA followed by up to four numbers.  
01476 567391  
or  
07748 483732.  
s12165ta@btinternet.com

## furniture

**ARMCHAIR GREY** fabric, 8 months old, excellent condition cost new from DFS £395, accept £59. 01384 287461.  
**BROWN LEATHER** three seater and two seater settees, excellent condition. £200 ono. 07811 878705.



**HORN SEWING CABINET**  
Horn 'Little Cub' sewing cabinet, folds for compact storage. As new condition, (£499 retail). Downsizing disposal. Stourbridge area.  
£100.  
07905 599242.



**TWIN BEDS**  
2 x 36ins oak guest beds, in 'Truckle bed' configuration. Lower bed lifts up to same height. Hardly used. Downsizing disposal. Stourbridge area.  
£150.  
07905 599242.

**TWO DURESTA** sofas, as new, cost £4,700, 2 seater and 3 seater, £800 for both. 01902 780581.  
**TWO X 2 seater** settees and 1 armchair, brown leather, immaculate condition. £130. 07761 398475.

## items for sale

## ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.  
**LARGE BOX** craft items and two die cutting machines, £85 ono. 01902 498366.  
**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## items wanted

## A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219 / 07891 713547  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



## caravans wanted

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
TOP PRICES PAID  
Immediate collection.  
CALL THOMAS  
07717 280 996  
www.iscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

## jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday, 14th May  
Next Sale: 28th May  
**KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, DY7 6ER**  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

## holidays

## caravan parks

**LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME** for sale on 5\* park. Golf, fishing, bar & restaurant, pet friendly £24,995 inc. 2017 site fees www.pearllake.co.uk 01568 708 326.

## self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
Self Catering Holiday Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
01278 794111  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## travel abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

## what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS' & VINTAGE FAIR**  
COPTHORNE HOTEL, LEVEL ST., MERRY HILL, DUDLEY, DY5 1UR  
SUNDAY 14TH MAY  
9AM - 4PM  
07783 680 627



**AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED**

SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC

ALSO

**GARAGE CLEARANCES**

Old Enamel Signs, Petrol Cans, Old Jugs, Classic Car Parts, Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old.

**\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\***

01384 836219 / 07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 or 48k computer wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

**loans**

**READERS ARE REMINDED** that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

**t.v. / home entertainment**

**service**

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**

Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

**specialists at your service**

**aerials**

**CHOOSE CLASSIFIED**



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Steve - AA Digital Aerials

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**Work Guaranteed**

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Supplied and Fitted £195

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12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

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**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**

Over 35 years exp

All aspects of building work. Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping. Discounts offered.

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**fencing**

**PORTWAY FENCING**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

10 Boys of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. **£695**

Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted. Heavy duty posts supplied & fitted.

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Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12 noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

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"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"

Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

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**GREENALY**

**Fencing Decking** DBS

**Slabbing Turfing** Checked

07856 584523 • 0121 550 1742

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**MAG GARDENING**

All garden work and maintenance, lawn mowing, hedges trimmed.

**0121 4060976**  
**07525 0769 52**

**gas fitting**

**READERS ARE ADVISED**

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without

being on the Gas Safe Register.

**house clearances**

**AJT CLEARANCES**

**FULL & PART HOUSE CLEARANCES**

BEREAVEMENT SPECIALISTS

LICENSED WASTE CARRIERS

**01384 732429 / 07752 175707**

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

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12 years experience. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on: **07771 727119**

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**roofing**

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**rubbish removal**

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

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**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**

**Save £225**

All size skips and all areas covered. Some day delivery faster than a phone call!!! Open 7 days a week.

**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**

**4 Pets & Animals**

**equestrian corner**

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

**GRAZING WANTED** for horses, any size, prepared to do small amount of fencing, any area. 07974 063401 or 01902 497304.

**guns & dogs**

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**

Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**pets corner**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

**6 Property**

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**properties wanted**

**WE BUY CASH ANY HOUSE**

**CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7 days**

**0800 246 1047**

**WE OFFER £20,000 CASH ADVANCE**

NO Fees & FREE Solicitors We Buy Any Area & Any Condition

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**Home Cash Buyer**

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**

**Houses / Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

**Need to sell your home fast?**

**We can help you make a fresh start**

With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

**Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED

COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT

FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS

FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE

LOCAL COMPANY

**MARION PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**

**WHY NOT CALL US TODAY**

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

**0121 405 0797**

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

\*Terms and Conditions apply

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1983, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**FLAT TO RENT** in Tinacre Hill, to professionals only. £550pcm inclusive of bills. 07587 697123.

**ROOMS NETHERTON** Refurbished with Parking. £80 pwk Single, £90 Double inc. bills. No DSS. 07970171139 or 07940116130.

**7 Jobs**

**hair & beauty**

**EXPERIENCED BARBER** To join the team at busy Male Barbers in Halesowen Details: 07972 707316

**full time - general**

**JOBS FAIR** Friday 12th May. 10am - 2pm. Hundreds of jobs available on the day. Molineux Stadium, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4QR. Free to attend. [www.thejobfairs.co.uk](http://www.thejobfairs.co.uk)

**MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY**

**jobs.expressandstar.com**

REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

**Express & Star**

**FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE**

**FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE**

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

**Package Price £399\***

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email [tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk)

\*All prices are subject to VAT

**RECRUITMENT EVENT**

**JOBS FAIR**

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2007, 44,000 miles, 1.6HDI, grey, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm,

MoT, rear parking sensors.

**£2,100 ono.**

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**MUST BE SEEN**

**HYUNDAI ACTIVE 1.2 AUTO**

Ice Silver,

62 Reg

(October 20, 2012),

4,300 miles from new,

one owner,

fsh at Hyundai main dealer.

**£5,650.**

**07801 274933.**

**4X4**

**LANDROVER**

**DEFENDER 90**

2.4 TDCi, 2008, hard top,

3-dr, manual, grey,

alloy wheels, electric windows,

tow bar, 2 owners from new,

full main dealer service history,

excellent condition.

**£14,999.**

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**MERCEDES SL350**

**AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE**

54 reg, 74,000 miles, fsh, Obsidian black, with cream leather, keyless go, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector,

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2 keys.

Absolutely pristine.

**£9,999.**

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**1.5 DCi**

2015, red, genuine 5,000 miles

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Must sell

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(October 20, 2012),

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3-dr, manual, grey,

alloy wheels, electric windows,

tow bar, 2 owners from new,

full main dealer service history,

excellent condition.

**£14,999.**

**074**



**LOW MILEAGE**

**SKODA OCTAVIA**

2011, 12 months MoT, full main dealer s/h, genuine 35,000 miles, 4 new tyres, cambelt changed, rear privacy glass, excellent condition, non smoker. Just had over £700 spent on service.

**£5,595 ono.**

**Telephone 07752 065437.**

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**SUBARU OUTBACK RD 3.0**

2005, petrol, automatic with triptronic gear box, long MoT, 107,000 miles, fsh, white with cream leather interior, EW, AC, CD and radio, sat nav, triple sunroof, very good condition.

**£3,900. o.n.o.**

**07939 287001 N/T.**

**IMMACULATE**

**TOYOTA AYGO**

2016, as new, 1,800 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, one owner, pas, 4 door, free road tax, very economical.

**£6,500 ono.**

**07977 000936.**

**IDEAL FIRST CAR**

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 BREEZE**

2008, 60,000 miles, glass roof, long MoT.

**£1,895**

**07913 981460.**



**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXI**

2011, 1 previous lady owner, 33,000 miles, 6 months MoT, FSH, last serviced at 32, 800 miles, bluetooth / CD / Aux, factory alarm, AC, 2 keys, clean

interior / exterior,

**£3,695 ono.**

**07871 661625.**

**AUTOMATIC**

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE**

2010, blue, 5dr, 28,000 miles, 12 months MoT, FSH,

heated seats, air con etc.

Excellent condition.

**£4,500 ono.**

**Halesowen 07908 009210.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN CDTI**

2007, black, one owner,

12 months MoT,

excellent condition.

**£2,200**

**07913 981460.**

**cars under £1500**



**AUDI A2 1.4 SE**

2002, grey, 75,000 miles, service history, lots of documentation, 1 previous owners, MoT to January, excellent condition, new starter motor fitted, alloy wheels,

manual, aluminium body.

**£1,195.**

**07973 256153**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**CITROEN C2 1.6VTS**

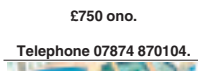
05 reg, black, long MoT.

Very good condition.

Usual extras.

**£750 ono.**

**Telephone 07874 870104.**



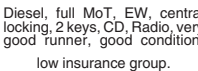
**FIAT IDEA 1300cc**

Diesel, full MoT, EW, central locking, 2 keys, CD, Radio, very good runner, good condition,

low insurance group.

**£900 ono.**

**07453 046600.**



**FORD FIESTA STYLE**

2006, 3-door hatch,

metallic blue,

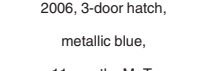
11 months MoT,

electric windows,

CD player, alarm.

**£750**

**07538 650368.**



**FORD FIESTA ZETEC 16V**

2001, excellent condition, long MoT, owned from new, economical, reliable, in use

daily, CL, PAS.

**£375 o.n.o.**

**07486 470167.**

**LOOK**

**FORD FIESTA ENCORE**

L reg, silver, 3 door, hatchback, 1299cc, 55,000 miles.

MoT August 2017.

ON SORN.

**£400 ono.**

**Telephone 01902 835891.**

**DIESEL**

**FORD MONDEO 2.0**

DIESEL 03 reg, grey, nine months MoT,

**£600 ono.**

**01902 652521.**

HONDA ACCORD, 1999, 59,000 miles, 2.0 Vtech, auto, silver, air con, fsh, long MoT, cruise control, very good condition, £750 ono, 07492 364161.

**£2,000.**

**07913 981460.**

**BARGAIN**

**PEUGEOT 407HDI 1.6 DIESEL**

2007, 123,000 miles on clock, FSH,

MoT end September.

**£1,200**

**01902 564428.**

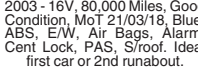


**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**

2003 - 16V, 80,000 Miles, Good Condition, MoT 21/03/18, Blue, ABS, E/W, Air Bags, Alarm, Cent Lock, PAS, S/roof. Ideal first car or 2nd runabout.

**£995**

**07764 633748**



**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 16V**

Petrol car, 2003, red, 104,000 miles, 6 months MoT, excellent condition.

**£525**

**07940 211095.**

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**WANTED SUNBEAM CAR MEMORABILIA**

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**s12165ta@btinternet.com**

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Buyer could call.

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**9 Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**

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or email

**marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**HERBERT ARNOLD JONES (Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 25 Barre Road Cradley Heath West Midlands B64 7HG, who died on 27/03/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**GLOVERPRIEST SOLICITORS LTD**

5 Westley Road Apcocks Green Birmingham B27 7UQ

**LUCY IRENE PITCHFORD (otherwise Irene) (Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of New View Nursing Home, New View Place, Romsley, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 0NX (formerly of 32 St Keneilms Road, Romsley, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 0NU), who died on 15/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 13/07/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**Thursfields Solicitors, Heyfield House,**

36 Hagley Road, Halesowen,

West Midlands B63 4RH.

Atrn: Richard Price Ref: RPE/04657/0006



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Would like to find a lady companion who would be whatever age, slim, smart, outgoing who wishes to partake in the better things in life and travel.

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**TAMIKA,** mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. A.CA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 423265

**CHRIS,** 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426823

**SAMANTHA,** 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

**JANE,** 49, young looking attractive female looking to live life up at bit with similar interesting, spontaneous man. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426705

**JASMINE,** 34yrs, non smoking first time date! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm looking for a no strings companion any age. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 426201

**CAROLINE,** attractive mature lady, various interests, hoping to meet a smart gent for socialising, perhaps leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426347

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426839

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

**CARMEL,** open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

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**FEMALE,** Doctor, 60, Asian, divorced, youthful and broad minded, likes eating out, holidays, keep fit and meditation. Very busy but text to find out more. Text only Mailbox: 5840579

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 410673

**CAROL** 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427075

**JANE,** young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

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**EMILY,** mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

**ATTRACTIVE** Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425329

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# Style and technology treasure-chest

By Sharon Walters

**It's a tough old world out in the very busy and competitive SUV marketplace.**

There are many SUVs to tempt the buyer, so how do you make a decision?

It could be that you look for quality, price, running costs and perhaps the accolades received. In which case Peugeot's 3008 SUV could very well fit the shopping list.

Taking the latter first, the 3008 SUV has a bagful of awards including: 2017 Car of the Year at the Geneva Motor Show, Carbuyer Car of the Year 2017 and Crossover of the Year 2017 in Fleet World Honours. It also won a prestigious technology award – the Technology Award at the What Car? Car of the Year Awards 2017 for its unique Peugeot i-Cockpit® driving environment which plays a big part in the pleasure of driving the 3008.

This second generation of Peugeot's i-Cockpit®, which is standard across all models of the new 3008 SUV range, won praise for its ability to put the latest technology safely at the fingertips of the driver, while creating an optimal driving position for an engaging and focused drive.

And it sure did in my week of taking it out on the roads.

This latest evolution includes an all-new infotainment system on an 8.0" high-resolution touch screen, as well as an elevated configurable 12.3" head-up digital instrument panel set above a compact multi-function steering wheel.

I particularly liked the digital instrument screen that displays your speed, navigation, phone and audio information. And it is all of the highest quality with a premium feel. The whole technology package was, until this



The cabin is high quality and well-designed

latest 3008, only found on higher-end models or as an expensive option.

The rest of the cabin is high quality as well and very well-designed – as is the outside. Plus you get a big boot and that interior is very spacious. The driving position is excellent too, with supportive seats, which on my test car the GT also feature a relaxing massaging function, that was very welcome on a very long trip I did which featured an hour-long hold-up on the motorway.

The range starts from £21,795 with a well-specified 'Active' model that has so many standard features, with a host of safety equipment including: AEBs – Automatic Emergency Braking System, adaptive driver and front passenger airbags (includes passenger airbag deactivation function), driver and front passenger side, front and rear curtain airbags, CDS – Dynamic Stability Control and ASR – Electronic Anti-skid System, driver attention alert system, Isofix child seat fittings (x3) in the front passenger



Multi-award-winning Peugeot 3008 high on shopping list for an SUV

and outer rear seats, programmable cruise control and speed limiter, and speed limit recognition and recommendation. All that resulted in a 5-star EuroNCAP safety rating.

There is a choice of four trim levels – 'Active', 'Allure' (expected best-selling version), 'GT Line' and the top-of-the-range 'GT' and a wide choice of engines is available.

My test car was the GT 2.0 litre BlueHdi

180 turbo-diesel. Despite all that potential performance the car still manages close to the official figure of 58.9mpg in a combined cycle. A figure of 124g/km emissions results in just £143 a month in latest company car tax which started last month. This range topper gets all the standard equipment mentioned so far and so much extra kit with leather heated and those massaging seats, dual-zone

climate control, rear parking sensors, rear screen, cruise control, the 3D Tom Tom-based navigation system, plus Apple Carplay and Android Auto compatibility. And the price is £32,995 which compared to others in the segment seems pretty good to me.

The Peugeot 3008 SUV is stylish, well-equipped, a technology treasure chest and a good drive. Test drive anyone?



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13/13 NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi VISIA, 5dr, White, 46,000 miles .....	£7995
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14/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7CDTi SRI, 3dr, Red, 44,000 miles .....	£8295
11/61 NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi TEKNA, 5dr, White, 39,000 miles .....	£8495
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14/14 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5DCi DYNAMIQUE, 5dr, Arizona, 29,000 miles .....	£9395
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13/62 NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCi TEKNA, 5dr, Pearl Black, 27,000 miles .....	£9695
14/14 SEAT LEON 1.6TDi SE, 5dr, Blue, 24,000 miles .....	£9995
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	NOW
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2007 BESSACARR ES40 2 Berth, End Bathroom .....	£26,995
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08/08 ACE AIRSTREAM, Fixed Bed, 21,000 miles .....	£28,995
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13/13 BESSOCORR E452, Fixed Bed, 4 Berth, 6600 miles .....	£37,995
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Please contact Craig or Keith

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VAUXHALL



# Tackling a 'tough mudder' challenge in Jeep Renegade

By Jack Evans

You may have heard of Tough Mudder. An endurance event over 10 or 12 miles, it pushes participants to their limits as they run, jump and leap over a series of gruelling challenges.

It's not an undertaking for the faint-hearted, with some Tough Mudder events incorporating electric shocks at times. It's a real challenge designed to test a person's physical and mental strength.

However, what would it be like to try out such a course when behind the wheel? Well, to celebrate the launch of its limited edition Renegade Tough Mudder, Jeep invited us to do just that.

Powered by a 2.0-litre petrol engine, the Jeep Renegade Tough Mudder doesn't initially look like a car capable of tackling extreme inclines and deep mud – but thanks to four-wheel-drive, relatively low body weight and a low-range gearbox, it should be better on the rough stuff than its looks would lead you to believe.

## Challenges

Luckily, we'd get to test that theory out on a variety of challenges, ranging from near-vertical ascents to chassis-bending rock climbs – just like a real Tough Mudder.

The Tough Mudder Renegade also gets a series of special features, including exclusive body decals and a chunkier front bumper for a more rugged, off-road-ready look.

It's also limited to just 100 units, so it's rare, too.

The Renegade is fitted with Selec-Terrain, which gives better traction on tricky surfaces. We'd also use the car's Hill Descent Control. This allows you to descend a steep gradient in a smooth and controlled fashion, no matter how slippery the surface. It'd come in handy during our first challenge, which was a steep incline followed by an equally sharp descent.

Going up, the little Renegade never faltered. Scrabbling at the surface, it pulled up the rise eagerly, making the summit in next to no time.

Coming back down, it remained composed. There's always the temptation to use the brakes in these situations – though the systems work their best when left to their own devices. Applying the brakes can often confuse them.

A deep section of muddy water was the next challenge. We were grateful we didn't have to run through it wearing



The first challenge included a steep incline, tackled easily by the Renegade

shorts and a T-shirt like Tough Mudder participants do – with the only discomfort coming when the Renegade's air-conditioning blew a little too much cold air into the cabin – tough, we know.

Thankfully, the little Jeep remained watertight despite the quagmire, and faultlessly pulled through to the other side. For such a small car, its level of off-road capability is impressive.

It continued to barrel over a series of gravelly sections, before we carried on to a deeply wooded area. Tree roots littered the course, threatening to rip at a car's underbody and mangle its suspension. Surprisingly enough, the Renegade remained light on its feet.

Had we been out on the course on foot, we'd have easily

slipped around a lot more than the Jeep did. An axle-bending rocky section proved no match for it, though we did hear the odd scrape as boulders collided with the car's undercarriage.

Thankfully, the Renegade is fitted with metal skid plates designed with this in mind – so we weren't too worried about damaging the base of the car.

As we rolled through the finish line, it was clear that the Renegade Tough Mudder had proven us wrong. Far from being some boxy soft-roader, it is in fact a truly capable car on difficult terrain.

For us, it was also a real benefit to be able to see what a Tough Mudder challenge is all about from the warmth of a car – and without the electric shocks.



## On-line shopping upping road miles

Vehicles travelled a total of 323.7 billion miles on the roads of Great Britain in 2016, new figures released by the Department for Transport reveal.

That represents a 2.2 per cent increase on 2015 and more than 18 per cent compared with 20 years ago.

While the amount of heavy goods traffic stalled after a few years of increases, cars and vans continued to travel further with the latter accounting for 4.7 per cent more traffic than in 2015 – a bigger increase than any other vehicle type.

Transport for London has previously indicated that the sharp rise of light commercial vehicles is because of the popularity of online shopping, with many workers getting items sent to the workplace to avoid missing deliveries.

## Underline

Following a dramatic drop in urban traffic after the recession in 2007, there continues to be a resurgence in inner-city traffic with an annual increase of 1.8 per cent. However, it remains below peak pre-recession figures.

Nick Lyes, RAC roads policy spokesman, said: "These figures underline the importance in having a road network that is truly fit for purpose – and a reminder to whoever forms the next government that investment must be sustained to support further economic growth, and to provide roads that deliver safe, reliable journeys for every UK motorist."

"Local roads are also seeing traffic growth and many are struggling to cope with a depressing combination of congestion and potholes."

Mark Shankland, managing director of AA Tyres, said: "These stats bear out how much, as a nation, we're indebted to our cars."

"While car stock has continued to rise, the total number of miles driven per person has increased beyond this – reflecting just how reliant we are on our motors for everyday usage."

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## Funding will get accurate estimates of environmental impact of vehicles



A real-time emissions estimation project has been handed £1 million in government funding.

The joint project between Imperial College London and vehicle analytics and tracking company Tantalum aims to give both individual drivers and local authorities accurate estimations for the environmental impact of vehicles on the road.

Tantalum's solution works by connecting to a car's on-board computer to provide real-time information about how much nitrogen oxide (NOx) is being emitted. The company claims its existing carbon dioxide-measuring system helped customers save fuel by making them aware of how their car was performing, and believes it could reduce NOx emissions

"by up to 50 per cent". Ozgur Tohumcu, Tantalum CEO, says the system could change your route to avoid high-pollution areas and automatically pay charges – such as London's Congestion Charge – based on where you've been.

"We are working with Imperial College and cities around the world to make this vision a reality."

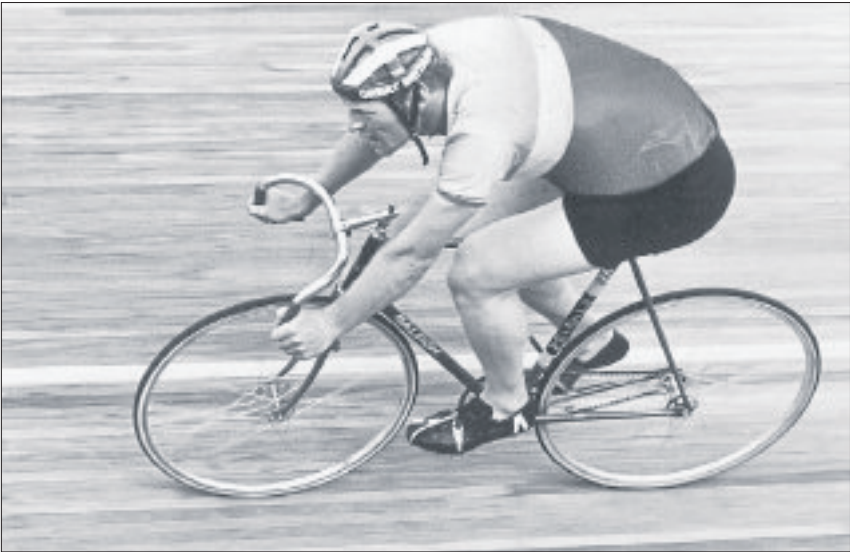
"We are delighted to have been awarded the Innovate UK grant, as it confirms Tantalum's place as the leading connected vehicle innovator and reinforces Tantalum's vision to put our automotive and data science expertise towards improving everyone's quality of life."

"We look forward to making this a reality," he added.





Trevor Gadd with two major trophies and some of his jubilant supporters delighted at his Olympic selection



Trevor Gadd in action at Leicester, where he set a record for the 200 metres



Trevor Gadd after winning a national sprint championship

# Trevor, you will never now be forgotten again

## SPORTING MEMORIES

Report by John Scott

**NOBODY** knew who he was when he returned from his new home in Canada to the city of his glory days. But the name of Trevor Gadd will never been forgotten again.

For it has just been decided that it will be added to Wolverhampton’s Sporting Hall of Fame later this year.

David Viner, chairman of the cycling section of Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club of which Trevor is a life member, nominated him for the award.

He said: “I am delighted that the nomination has been accepted. I believe Trevor has been an under-valued sportsman and this should help set the record straight.”

### Plaques

Trevor lived in Elmdon Road, Oxley – just two miles from Aldersley Stadium where the Hall of Fame books and wall plaques are displayed – from the age of 14. He went to Elston Hall Nursery and Junior School, Wobaston Secondary Modern and Wulfrun College.

He represented Great Britain in the 1976 Olympic games, the 1977 World Track Championships and the 1978 Commonwealth Games in which he won silver medals in the individual and tandem sprints.

Sadly he was involved in a bad crash soon after the Games and retired from the sport.

At one stage he had also been a discus and hammer thrower and shared the same coach as Olympic gold medal winning javelin thrower Tessa Sanderson.

Mr Viner said: “Trevor came from a humble background and did not get any of the financial support given to riders now.

“In those days you had to give your GB jersey back at the end of the race. Lottery money has made a big difference to the life of sportsmen and women.

“Trevor moved to Canada and, a few years ago came back to see his dad.

“Aldersley Stadium meant a lot to him because he did a lot of training and riding there. He expected a warm welcome but somebody there said they had never heard of him, a comment he took personally.”

Mr Viner is now hoping to encourage Trevor, now aged 65, to come back to this country once more to receive his award.

### Ambassador

The ceremony is likely to take place in September and if he cannot make it his brother, who lives in Leeds, will be asked to take his place.

Chairman of Wolverhampton’s Sports Advisory Council, Peter Holmes MBE, said: “Trevor Gadd upholds all that is good in sport and is a fine ambassador for Wolverhampton.

“He also provides an immense incentive for every young cyclist.”

Trevor’s story tells of when he was a lad living just a couple of miles from Aldersley Stadium. He rode the track there as a schoolboy. His nickname by the spectators was ‘Tiger’ with his family being factory workers.

He was not sure what the other kids parents did for a living but they had the sprints and tubs while he had a road bike converted to fixed wheel with tubes and clincher tyres and could still hold his own.

Previous inductees include athlete Denise Lewis, Le Mans winning racing driver Richard Atwood and Wolves footballers Bert Williams and Billy Wright.



In action – Trevor Gadd will be added to the Sporting Hall of Fame

## Recalling richest prizes in football

EUROPEAN CUP winners with perennial rivals Liverpool and Manchester United will recall claiming the richest prizes in club football at a Wolverhampton pub next month.

Alan Kennedy and David May both have medals from going to the top table, during their playing careers, with the Reds and United respectively.

The duo will now headline an event titled ‘Vintage Reds’ at the Cleveland Arms Sports Bar, Stowheath Lane, on June 8.

Kennedy made all the difference with winning strikes for Liverpool in both the 1980 and 1984 European Cup finals, despite operating as a left-back. May spent nine years as a squad player at Old Trafford, where he would win two Premier League titles, two FA Cups and the now re-branded Champions League.

Tickets to see Kennedy and May start with standard entry costing £12. VIP packages are £30 including priority seating, a buffet and a professional photograph with Kennedy and May – but only a handful of this category remain.

Tickets can be bought online, at either [www.clevelandarms.com](http://www.clevelandarms.com) or call in at the venue or dial 01902 451 021.

## Woffinden misses out in Grand Prix

TAI WOFFINDEN went agonisingly close to a semi-final spot in the opening Speedway Grand Prix of the year – but he was still happy with his work.

The Great Britain star notched eight-points in Krsko, Slovenia, not quite enough to make the cut. But he won two heats along the way and insists he’s laid the foundations to build on in the long season ahead.

He said: “I’m taking the positives from the first Grand Prix and I’ve put eight points on the board which is a solid start.

“It’s not bad but could have been better, that’s the best way to sum up how I feel about it. It’s good to get the first one out of the way and it gives me something to build on. Of course it was a shame to miss out on the semi-finals but I’ve got something to work on.”

Woffinden admitted he felt race rusty at the start line after a lack of competitive racing in the build-up to Slovenia.

“There were some starts I made a bit of a jump at but that’s down to being race rusty. Starts are such a big part of this sport and you have to be in the groove which isn’t easy when you’ve not raced much.

“As I say there’s lots to work on, lots to improve on and I’m sure we’ll get there.”

## Pushing boat out to get on the water

FREE and low cost sailing and windsurfing is on offer across the region as the national RYA Push the Boat Out ‘have-a-go’ festival gets under way this weekend.

Last year more than 4,000 people across the Midlands discovered sailing for the first time through the initiative.

Five clubs and centres – Aldridge, Sandwell Valley, Dudley, Himley Hall and Greensforge – will be opening their gates for open days and ‘taster’ events before the nine-day festival ends on Sunday, May 21.

For families who find the experience to their liking, it can cost just £20 a month, or even less to join a sailing club.

All equipment for the Push The Boat Out initiative will be provided, and refreshments will be available. All that is required are a towel and a pair of old trainers.

To find your nearest event and for full details of exactly what is going on and when at each participating sailing club and centre, visit [www.rya.org.uk/PTBO](http://www.rya.org.uk/PTBO) – to search for an event where disabled people can get on the water tick the ‘Sailability’ activities box.





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## Cruel denial on try count in cup final

OLD Halesonians were cruelly denied the North Midlands Cup on a try count as Bournville claimed the trophy for the second time in five seasons.

A last minute try from wing James Whybrow drew Bournville level at 25-25 in the final at Dudley Kingswinford. James Hussey was off target with his conversion attempt, but the whistle blew, and, after a check with the fourth official, referee Andy Wigley confirmed Bournville were winners 4-3 on tries. Competition regulations do not provide for extra time in any of the finals.

Bournville's win completed a successful season after they beat Kettering in a promotion play-off and they will join Old Halesonians in National Three Midlands next season. The end-to-end final was a superb advert for the competition.

Bournville opened up an eight points lead with an early try from number eight Drew Harper and a penalty from Hussey.

Old Halesonians hit back with a try from lock Richard Sawyer, Chris Hooper added the conversion.

But Bournville turned around with an eight points lead after lock Tom Holliday went over in first half injury time with Hussey converting.

The game swung in Old Hales' favour in the third quarter as Neil Mason rounded off a sweeping attack. Hooper added the conversion followed by a penalty and the cup appeared to be heading to Wassell Grove for the second time in three seasons when tighthead Richard Taylor finished off a sustained attack. But Old Halesonians twice had men sin binned for persistent offending under pressure and Bournville made them pay. Holliday was driven over by his second try, followed by Whybrow's try.

Bridgnorth became the third winners of the North Midlands Cup Plate by beating Hereford 32-0, while Ross-on-Wye won the North Midlands Vase for the third time in their history, beating Bromyard 23-14.

North Midlands' first-ever meeting with Hampshire at senior level proved forgettable as they were trounced 62-13 in the opening match of the Bill Beaumont County Championship Division Two South at Dudley Kingswinford.

North Midlands featured five Stourbridge representatives - Jack Lea, Ben Trinham, Rod Petty, Stefan Thorp, Mark George and Joe Heatley, as well as Old Halesonian Steve Leach.

## Mechanical fault ruins Ayres chance

HEATHENS went down 46-43 in the Ivor Brown trophy at Leicester. Danny Ayres wowed the crowd by winning heat four without a saddle but his late troubles proved a bigger pain in the backside.

The Motor Market Heathens number five, who also represents the Lions in the Premiership, had scored eight from three rides locked up in heat 13 before a mechanical fault caused him to miss the two minutes in a last-heat decider.

Ayres could not catch up as Josh Bates, the reserve who rode at number one for the much-changed hosts, led Matt Williamson in the only 5-1 of the night to secure the Ivor Brown Memorial Trophy.

## Daughter follows in Yeltz hotseat



Karen Brookes, new Yeltz chairwoman

HALESOWEN Town's new chairwoman Karen Brookes is vowing to be as "hard-working and passionate" as her father Colin while fighting for the interests of the Yeltz.

The lifelong fan was pictured after officially taking over at the Evo-Stik NPL Premier Division club on May Day. She squeezes in following England home and away with attending a Premier League game most weekends and working internationally as an executive director of a PLC company.

The new Yeltz chairwoman, who fills a role left vacant since the end of the 2015-16 season when her father became club president, is also a keen

### Football

athlete, having completed a number of half marathons, marathons and triathlons while running several times a week for fun.

Brookes, who can trace her love of the game back to her father taking her to football training as a toddler, said: "This is a great opportunity to work with an amazing group of people and a club that has a real football heritage."

"My family's association with Halesowen Town Football Club spans over 20 years and is a club my dad feels so passionately about."

# NO LYE, IT'S BEEN GOODALL

HE led Lye Town to their highest-ever league position this year but Darren Goodall has blown the final whistle on his time in charge.

At one time Lye were knocking on the door of the Evo-Stik League First Division South during an impressive Midland League campaign that ended with a fourth-place finish.

But after seven years in charge, Goodall has stepped down so a fresh pair of hands can take the lead role he shared with joint-boss Martin Thomas.

Now Goodall has looked back on his time at the club who he helped make the leap from the West Midlands Regional League to the Midlands Premier. Goodall, aged 46 and originally from Rowley Regis but now living in Telford, said: "I think it has been a great seven years which has been up and down."

### Trophies

"I would liked to have won a few more trophies but I got the team out of the West Midlands Regional League where they were fighting relegation."

Goodall took over seven years ago when the club were fighting to stay in the Premier League of the WMRL, but turned them into title-challengers.

In his third year in charge they endured heartbreak in the last game of the season - when they just needed to win their final game to gain promotion.

"I think it was our first away defeat. We had a great season and had been right up there at the top of the league, but we got pipped to the post in the last game and were left gutted."

AFC Wulfrunians ended up leapfrogging Lye by one point to win the league and achieve promotion. But Lye overcame their heartache the following season (2013/14), and were crowned champions.

Since then they have been finishing higher and higher in the Premier Division of the Midlands League. They claimed fourth place at the end of this season - their highest finish in non-league football.



Darren Goodall enjoyed ups and downs, but mostly ups, during seven years at Lye Town

## Clash of Titans in vital fundraiser

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Clubs' amateur sides bring the curtain down on the season tomorrow night (Friday) as they compete for bragging rights, the 'Clash of the Titans' trophy and most importantly, raise charity cash.

Stourbridge Lions 2nds, the Greyhounds, and Lions 3rds, Grasshoppers, take to the Stourton Park first team

pitch to raise funds for both the club and its chosen charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The charity was selected because the wife of regular Hoppers back row Rich Barratt suffers from the disease.

The Grasshoppers will be looking to avenge last season's narrow defeat to the Greyhounds who recently won pro-

motion to the North Midlands Reserve League Division 2.

The teams will take to the field in new sponsored kits with all proceeds from shirt sales, gate receipts and the raffle being split between the club and the charity. The fun starts at 7pm, with refreshments available and free post-game entertainment from a local live band.

## Hales slip up in hunt for first win

HALESOWEN'S stumbling start to the season continued at the weekend and skipper Richard Brooker admitted conditions played their part.

They were beaten by C&R Hawks at Seth Somers Park to increase the pressure on the side looking for a first win of the season.

After they were set 230 to win in 50 overs, the batsmen failed to respond and were skittled out for 123 in 34 overs as former Worcestershire and England international Kabir Ali took 5-25.

Brooker said: "Bowling first was always going to be tricky as we spent much of the 50 overs with a wet ball which got progressively more difficult for the bowlers to grip. By the time the last few overs were bowled the ball was like a bar of soap but we opted to stick with it given it was likely to be the same for both sides."

"In the second half it dried up considerably and their bowlers profited from a surface which then became testing to bat on rather than skidding on due to the constant light drizzle as it had in the first innings."

The second were beaten at Kenilworth Wards as they collapsed to 140 all out. But the third team notched a fine win to secure third spot in the early standings.

On Saturday the club are in Birmingham League action with the firsts home to Fordhouses (noon).

## Ambitious Lennox aiming to impress

UNBEATEN Halesowen super middleweight, Lennox Clarke, is ready to do a job on Czech dangerman Karel Horejssek in Birmingham on Saturday as he waits patiently for a domestic title shot.

Having been avoided by all at Midlands level, the 25-year-old has turned his attention to the English, or even British, title as he looks to make inroads on the domestic super middle scene.

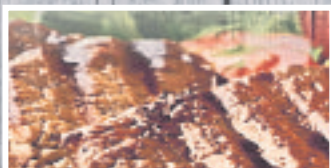
Clarke steps faces Horejssek knowing an impressive display on the undercard of Kal Yafai's first defence of his WBA World Super-Flyweight title (against Japa's Suguru Muranaka) at the Barclaycard Arena will step up his claims for a shot at the English strap.

"I've got to stay focussed on what's in front of me," he said. "It is frustrating because I'm 15-0 and ready to really kick on. The trouble is, you need a dancing partner and no-one seems to want it just yet. Horejssek is a good step up for me though and I need to impress against him. He's coming off three stoppage wins with his last one being against Tomi Tatham, so he's dangerous."

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